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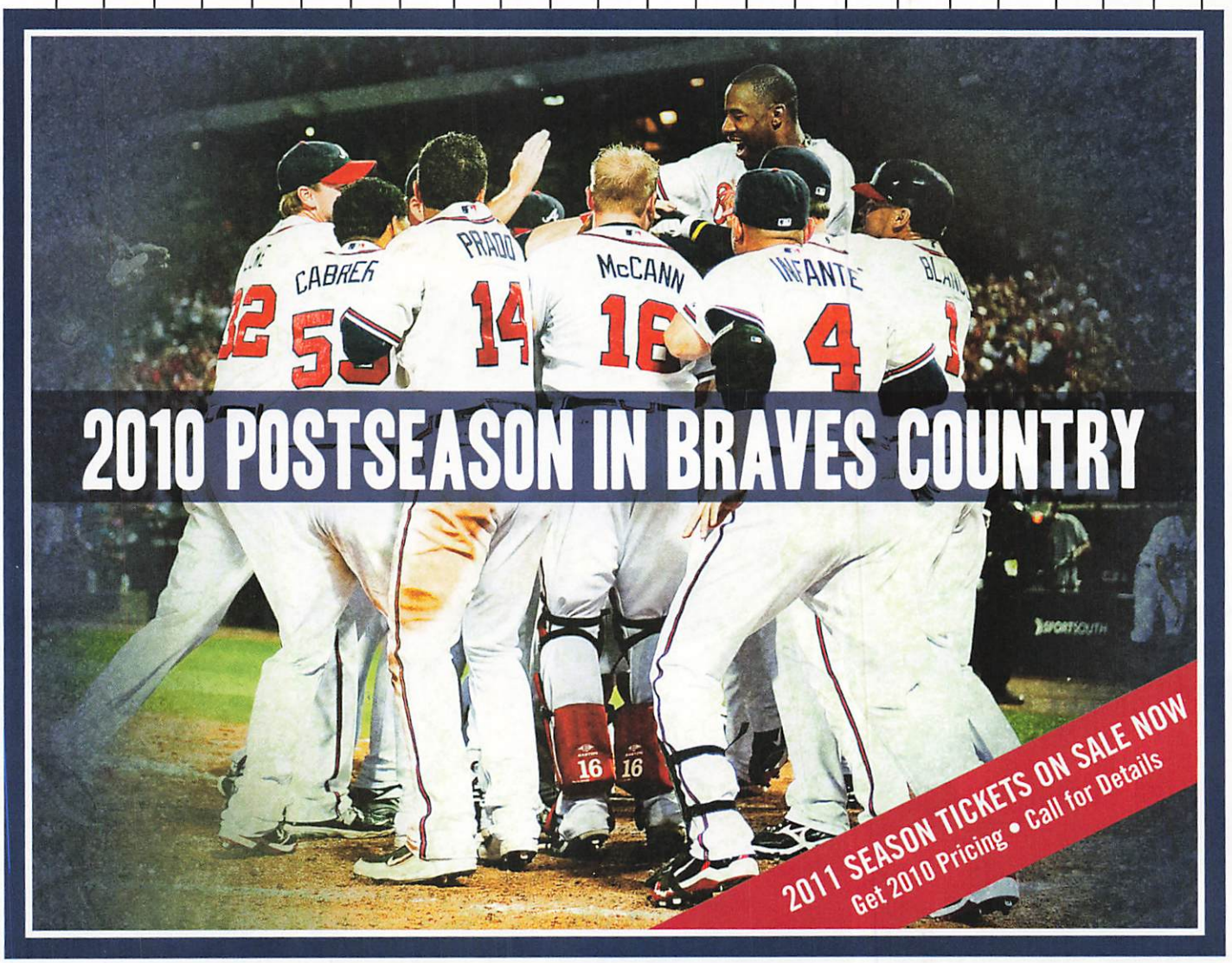
#47 Complete Coverage Of Tom Glavine Events, Including His Private Party



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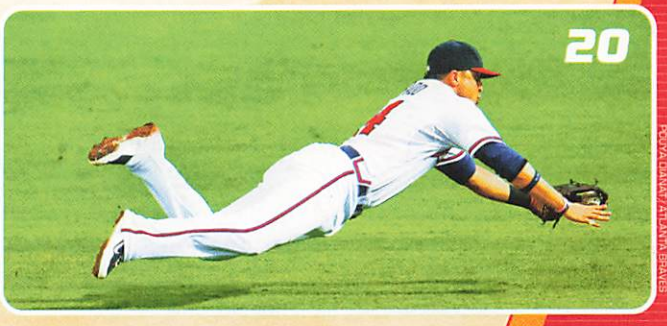

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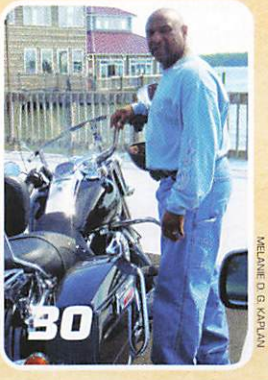

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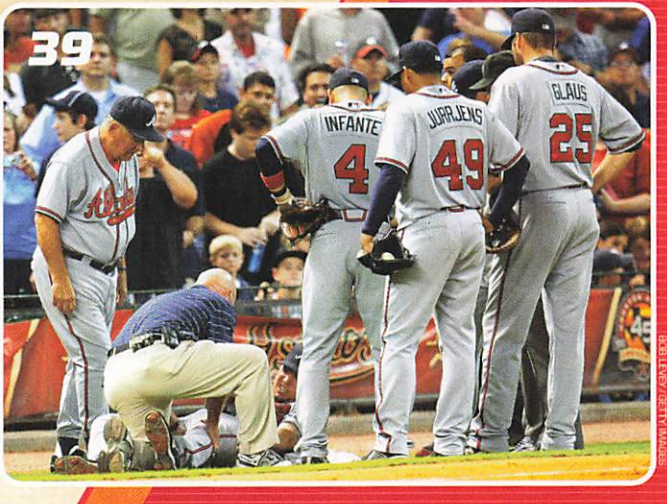

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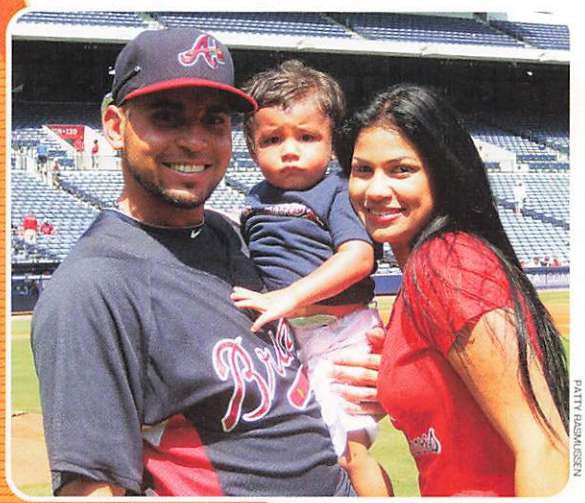

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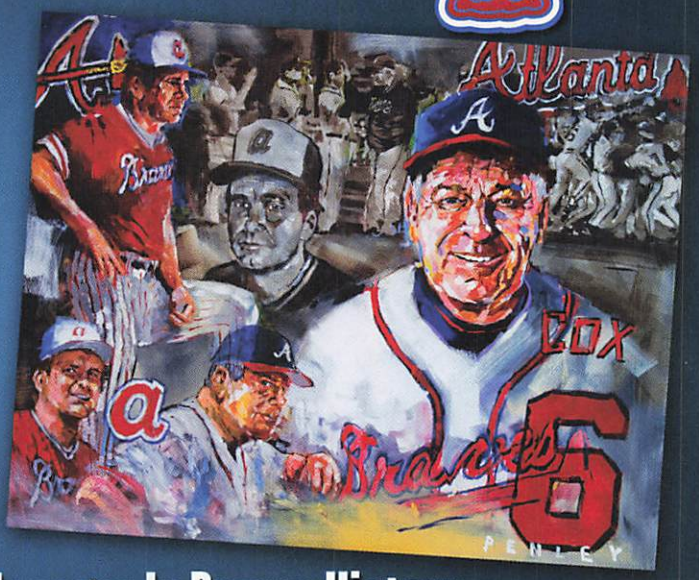

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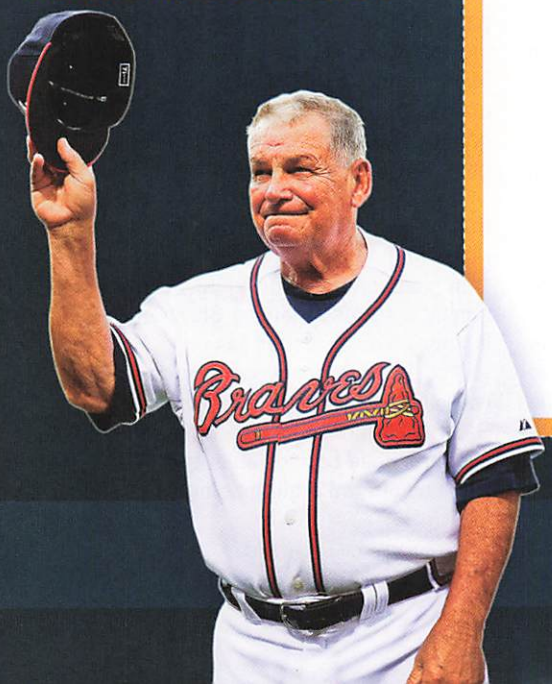

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Glavine Takes His Spot Next To Franchise Greats With Number Retirement, Hall Of Fame Induction

IMMORTALIZED

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

THEY STAND GUARD high over the proceedings at Turner Field like solemn, royal knights. The numbers 3... 21... 31... 35... 41... 44... and now 47. Murphy... Spahn... Maddux... Niekro... Mathews... Aaron... and now Glavine.

The tributes to the seven most distinguished combatants ever to wear a uniform in the history of the longest continuously operating franchise in sports, dating to 1871, form a very impressive lineup on the left field upper deck façade. Membership in the elite club is the ultimate salute that a Braves player can achieve, and it was only a matter of "when" that Tom Glavine would assume his numerological position next to Aaron.

"I hope at the end of the day, whether you watched the game here at the stadium or on TV, when you saw No. 47 walk to the mound, you knew I was going to give you everything I had," said Glavine to an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd of 42,178 after his number was unveiled in a pregame ceremony Aug. 6.

Earlier that same day, the Glavine tribute began during a luncheon at the Omni Hotel when he was officially inducted as the 22nd member of the Braves Hall of Fame.

It was a day 26 years in the making for Glavine, who was drafted by the Braves in 1984 (second round).

"I remember being a senior in high school and hearing that (scout, now director of scouting) Tony DeMacio and (then director of scouting) Paul Snyder were coming around watching me and eventually drafting me," said Glavine, 44, in his remarks at the induction luncheon. "I remember sitting at the kitchen table at our house with my dad (Fred) and mom (Millie) trying to make a decision between hockey and baseball. For an 18-year-old kid, it wasn't an easy decision."

Fortunately for the Braves, Glavine chose baseball. He has 305 career wins, 21st all-time and fourth among lefthanders behind Spahn, Steve Carlton and Eddie Plank. Glavine won 244 games with the Braves, and his five seasons of 20 or more wins (1991-93, '98, 2000) is an Atlanta record. He

ALLISON SHERRETTS

ranks second to Niekro (266) in victories by an Atlanta pitcher and fourth in franchise history behind Spahn (356), Kid Nichols (328) and Niekro (268).

He won two Cy Young Awards, 1991 and 1998, and was MVP of the 1995 World Series when he pitched eight innings of 1-hit ball to beat Cleveland, 1-0, in decisive Game 6.

Glavine was with the Braves for 16 seasons, beginning in 1987, before signing as a free agent with the Mets in 2002. He returned to the Braves in 2008 and was released in June 2009. Earlier this year, Glavine returned to the organization as a special assistant to president John Schuerholz. He is also an occasional television broadcaster on Fox SportSouth.

"I'm happy that everything, my career, has come full circle," said Glavine. "There were some contentious moments in the past, but this is the right place for me to be. I wanted to be here. I wanted to be able to bring my children here and for them to be Braves fans. And they are."

A sell-out crowd of 830 guests attended the luncheon. All the members of the current Braves, including Bobby Cox and his coaching staff, were on hand, except for Tommy Hanson, the starting pitcher of that night's game. They were seated at guest tables throughout the ballroom.

Also in attendance were previous Hall of Fame inductees Phil Niekro, Braves chairman emeritus Bill Bartholomay, Snyder, former broadcasters Ernie Johnson, and Pete Van Wieren, and former player Ralph Garr.

Braves broadcaster Skip Caray, who passed away in 2008, was represented by his wife, Paula. Rubye Lucas represented her husband and former general manager, Bill Lucas. Winningest left-handed pitcher of all-time, Warren Spahn, was represented by his son, Greg, and Mary Lou Burdette Wieloszynski represented Lou Burdette, pitcher and 1957 World Series MVP.

Other former Braves in attendance included Ron Gant, Ryan Klesko, Brian Jordan, Mark Lemke, Greg McMichael, Otis Nixon, Pete Smith, and Javy Lopez. The Braves brass was out in force, including chairman Terry McGuirk, Schuerholz and general manager Frank Wren.

The program opened by showing the popular Nike commercial, "Chicks dig the long ball," that featured Glavine and Greg Maddux, who was inducted into the Braves Hall of Fame and had his number retired a year ago.

Broadcaster Joe Simpson emceed a panel discussion with former Braves pitching coach Leo Mazzone, Chipper Jones and former catcher Javy Lopez, who holds the distinction of catching 248 of Glavine's games. Mazzone recalled that Glavine never gave in to the hitter or the strike zone.

"He told me that hitters have egos, and that he would take advantage of that," said Mazzone.

In addition to offering his congratulations, Lopez also thanked Glavine for making his job as a catcher easier.

"You knew there were only going to be two pitches," he recalled. "When I went to Baltimore and began working with other pitchers, I had bruises all over me!"

Jones offered a glimpse behind the cool

POUYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

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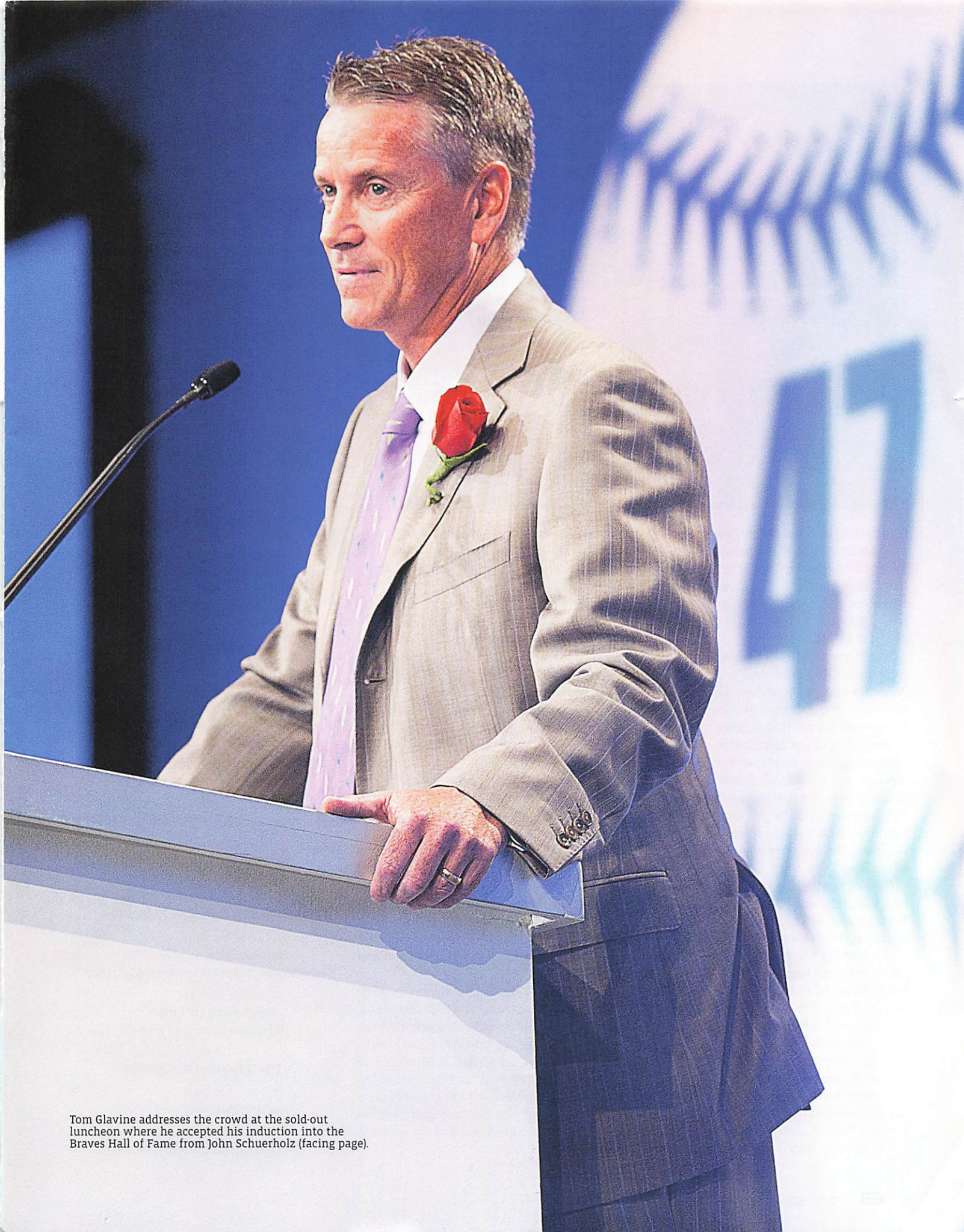
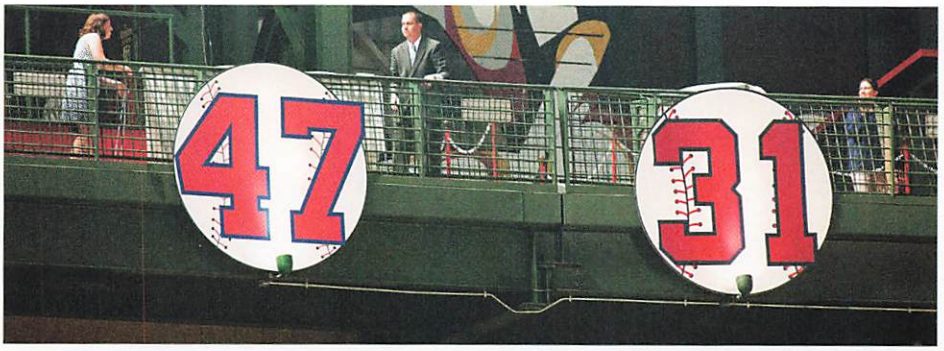
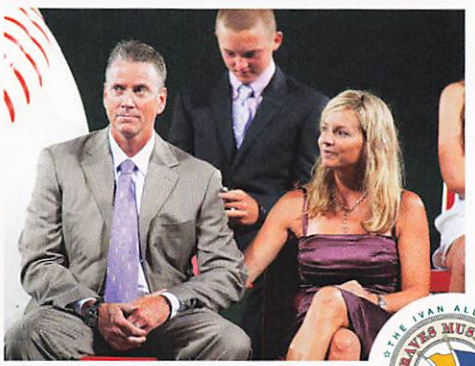


Tom Glavine addresses the crowd at the sold-out luncheon where he accepted his induction into the Braves Hall of Fame from John Schuerholz (facing page).





PHOTOS: ALLISON SHERRETTS

(Clockwise from bottom/left) Glavine enjoys a moment with his family (Hall of Fame scout Paul Snyder behind them) in the dugout before his No. 47 (top photo) is unveiled next to Greg Maddux's 31, and listens to accolades on the field during the number retirement ceremony.

façade Glavine often presented.

"He didn't 'lose it' in camera sight, but he'd get down in the tunnel and let loose a few choice words!" said Jones. "I learned how to go about my business from him. We had good guys to learn from, and he was one of the best."

Video greetings from Glavine's former rotation mates Steve Avery, Maddux and John Smoltz were shown on two large screens in the ballroom and were followed by comments from Hall of Fame pitcher and Braves broadcaster Don Sutton, who called Glavine his "favorite player that ever came through here." And Schuerholz said he "expected to be sitting on the lawn in Cooperstown in 2014" for Glavine's induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Finally, the audience heard from the man of the hour.

Glavine opened his remarks by thanking his parents, and his siblings, Debbie, Freddie and Mike, for their support and encouragement through the years.

"Everything I am today comes from my mom and dad," he said. "My stubbornness, work ethic, and desire to behave like a gentleman. It's said in baseball that you play for the logo on the front, not the name on the back. I played for the team, but I also played for that name. I never wanted to embarrass my family and was mindful of that."

Glavine recalled getting "tough love" from his dad who told him, "I don't care how good you are, there is always someone better."

"What I took from that was that you can't control how good other people are, but you can control how hard you work," said Glavine. "Hard work equalized the playing field."

Usually stoic, Glavine was clearly emotional when he spoke about his wife, Chris, and their five children, daughter Amber, and sons Jonathan, Peyton, Mason and Kienan.

"I can attest to the fact that behind every good man there stands a good woman," he said. "She made my life simpler so I could go out and play baseball."

Glavine also took the opportunity to thank members of the Braves training and medical staff, including former head trainer Dave Pursley, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Joe Chandler, and current head trainer Jeff Porter.

"There's no way I could have gotten through my career without them," said Glavine. And he thanked Cox, calling him "the greatest influence on my baseball career."

"He treated every man on a 25-man team the same," said Glavine. "I can't say enough about what he meant to me as a man and as a player."

A bright, hot Atlanta day was replaced by a torrential downpour by late afternoon. The Turner Field infield remained covered for hours as the pre-game number retirement ceremony, scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., was pushed back an hour before the rain finally subsided and the grounds crew was able to remove the tarp and prepare the field for the ceremony and the game to follow.

Nevertheless, a crowd of 42,178 fans braved the rain to pay their respects to the pitcher who brought Atlanta its only World Championship, and they were not disappointed. Glavine was joined on the temporary infield stage by his family, Cox, Schuerholz and McGuirk, and fellow Braves Hall of Famers Niekro, Snyder, Garr, Van Wieren and Dale Murphy, who missed the luncheon due to a delayed flight. The current Braves team stood in back of the stage, and Cox offered thanks to the former pitcher for his hard work and dedication and finished with this statement, "(Glavine) was an ace of a pitcher and an ace of a guy."

BRAVES HALL OF FAME

1999
Hank Aaron, OF (1954-74)
Eddie Mathews, 3B (1952-66)
Phil Niekro, RHP (1964-83, '87)
Warren Spahn, LHP (1942, '46-64)

2000
Dale Murphy, OF (1976-90)
Ted Turner, Owner (1976-2000)

2001
Lou Burdette, RHP (1951-63)
Ernie Johnson, Broadcaster (1962-99)

2002
Bill Bartholomay, Executive (1962-Present)
Johnny Sain, RHP (1942, '46-51)

2003
Del Crandall, C (1949-50, '53-63)

2004
Tommy Holmes, OF (1942-51)
Kid Nichols, RHP (1890-1901)
Skip Caray, Broadcaster (1976-Present)
Pete Van Wieren, Broadcaster (1976-Present)

2005
Herman Long, SS (1890-1902)
Paul Snyder, Scout/Executive (1966-Present)

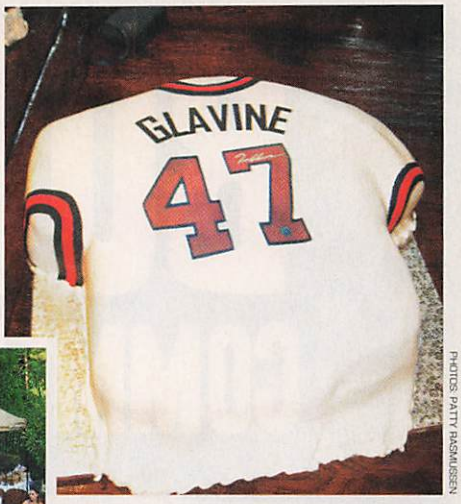
2006
Ralph Garr, OF (1968-75)
Bill Lucas, Executive (1966-79)

2007
David Justice, OF (1989-96)

2009
Greg Maddux, RHP (1993-2003)

2010
Tom Glavine, LHP (1987-2002, '08)

THE AFTER-PARTY



PHOTOS: PATTY RASMUSSEN

IT WOULD BE TOUGH to top the party the Braves threw for Tom Glavine when they inducted him into the franchise Hall of Fame then retired his jersey number, 47, during a pre-game ceremony at Turner Field on Aug. 6. But that wasn't the point of the private party thrown by Glavine and his wife, Chris, on Aug. 7.

Billed in the invitation e-mail as "Tommy's Retirement Party," the celebration included very few "baseball folks," and was a simple and quiet celebration of Glavine's long, illustrious baseball career.

Low key and casual, the retirement party was held at the Glavines' beautiful home in the north Atlanta suburb of Alpharetta. The Glavines kept the guest list intentionally small, about 80, limiting it to long-time friends, neighbors, fellow hockey and baseball parents, associates from their charity work, and, of course, out-of-town family.

The Northeastern contingent visiting from Massachusetts, where Glavine was born and raised, included his parents, Fred and Millie, and siblings Debbie and Mike (a former Braves minor leaguer) and their families.

Glavine's brother, Freddie, who lives in Atlanta, was also on hand, as were the Glavine children, Amber, Jonathan, Peyton and Mason, making a brief appearance before disappearing to friends' homes.

Dr. Joe Chandler, the former Braves orthopedist that Glavine specifically thanked during his induction speech, was there, as were former Braves pitchers and teammates Paul Assenmacher and Pete Smith and their wives.

Guests mingled around the pool/deck area (L) and enjoyed a cake designed to honor Glavine's remarkable career.

Guests mingled throughout the house, upstairs in the kitchen, throughout the downstairs game room/bar area and overflowing into a television viewing room affectionately known as the "Man Pit." Food and beverages were served on the downstairs patio and around the pool. A DJ made sure plenty of great tunes were playing at all times. And, of course, there was a cake, made in the shape of a Braves jersey, reading "Glavine" and "47" with the pitcher's signature in the icing.

- PATTY RASMUSSEN

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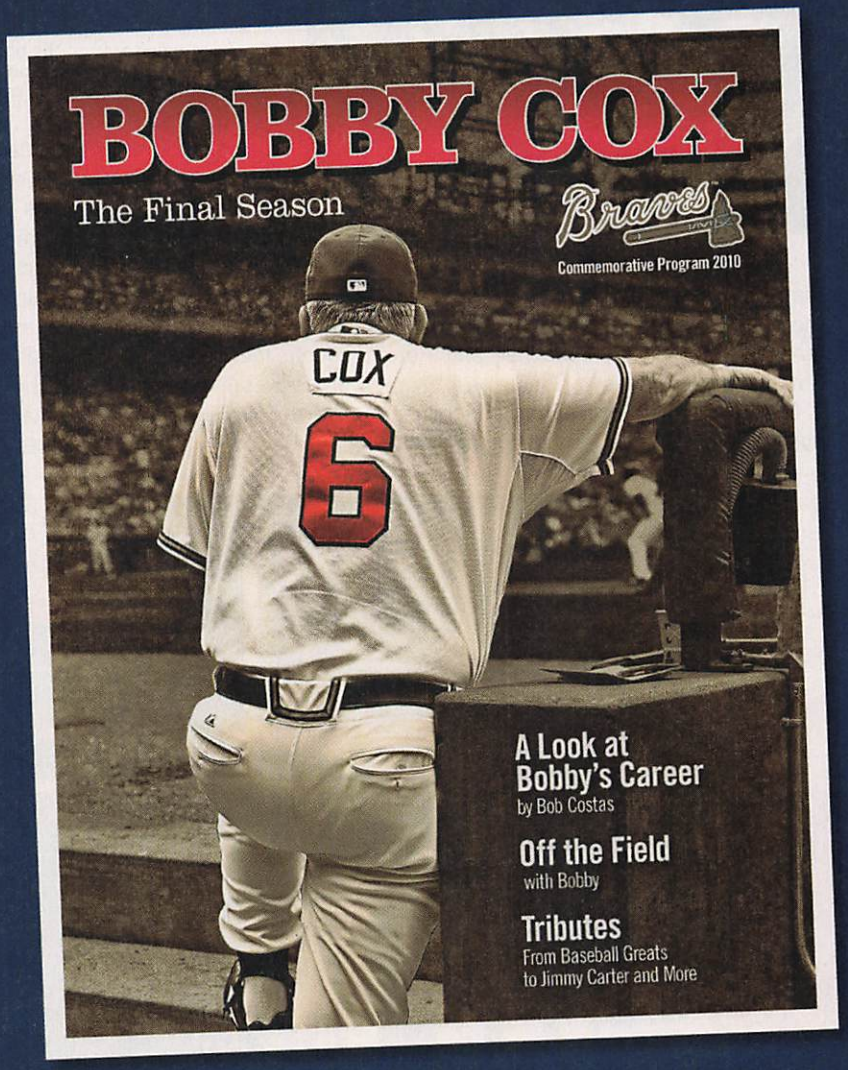

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BY JAY BUSBEE

COX'S SEPTEMBER TRACK RECORD

ATLANTA BRAVES

Andruw Jones (getting a hug from Chipper) helped the Braves hold on in September for their 14th straight division title in 2005, when he hit a franchise-record 51 home runs.

IT'S BEEN A FINE SUMMER for Braves fans, waking up every morning and flipping open the paper (or firing up the internet) and seeing Atlanta back in its rightful place atop the standings. Brings back fine memories of 1991 to 2005, doesn't it?

But there's that nagging sense of doubt lurking, that concern that maybe the last few years where the Braves fell short of October weren't just a bad dream. Is it too much to hope for a return to the playoffs five long years after the last trip?

For those looking to the past for precedent, here's a key stat: No Cox Braves team has ever given up first place in September. Ever.

Now, certainly, there are a few ways to view that. During his first term as Braves manager back in the late '70s, the Braves didn't get within a plane flight of first place. And since 2005, the Braves just haven't had the horses to compete late in the season. So again, first place wasn't an issue.

But during the years when Cox's teams were at full strength, he kept them locked in right into October. Since his current managerial stint began, Cox's Braves teams have finished lower than third place in the division only twice – 1990, when he came out of the front office to the dugout in mid-season, and 2008, a year we won't speak of again. Over that 20-year span, he directed 14 division winners, and you don't do that by letting up on the throttle.

So, as we head into the season's final month, what do the next few weeks hold for Atlanta? At this writing in early August, the Braves are still in first, though the Phillies are charging.

Good signs are all around. Every pundit, from the TV talking heads to the guy in the stands behind you, is predicting that the Braves will be in the playoff hunt right until the end. Atlanta has its best starting pitching rotation in nearly a decade, Braves batters get on base more often than anybody in the league, and the team seems to have recaptured that how-did-that-happen? kind of game-winning luck that you need to make an October run.

Still, we can't predict what will happen between now and October.

What we can do is take a look back at how Cox's Braves fared in similar Septembers when the outcome was by no means certain. Read on, friends, and take heart:

1991

Began September: Leading by 1 game.
Finished the season: Won by 1 game.
Key moment: Atlanta spent the entire last month of the season battling with Los Angeles, with only a single game separating the teams until the very end. On Oct. 1 against Cincinnati, David Justice produced one of Atlanta's greatest regular-season moments ever, capping a six-run Braves comeback with a dramatic two-run, ninth-inning homer off Rob Dibble. That gave Atlanta momentum and faith that would keep the team and its fans going for years.

1993

Began September: Second place, 3½ games behind San Francisco.
Finished the season: Won by 1 game.
Key moment: The Last Great Playoff Race came down to a single day – Oct. 3, 1993. With Tom Glavine on the mound, Atlanta defeated the expansion Rockies, 5-3, to complete an amazing 13-game season sweep of Colorado. The Dodgers, knocked out of the 1991 pennant hunt by San Francisco, demolished the Giants, 12-1, and Atlanta won the West.

1999

Began September: Leading by 3 ½ games.
Finished the season: Won by 7 games.
Key moment: This was a classic bend-but-don't-break year. The Braves-Mets rivalry was in high gear, and many observers predicted that this was the year the stacked Mets would end the Braves' dominance. And when the Mets cut the lead to a single game, the predictions looked sound. But on Sept. 21, in the first of six games the teams would play, Chipper Jones single-handedly knocked off the Mets, 2-1, with two solo homers. Atlanta would take five of the six, and that was that for the boys from Shea.

2005

Began September: Leading by 4 games.
Finished the season: Won by 2 games.
Key moment: Most of Cox's wizardry in 2005 came earlier in the season, as he managed a squad of Baby Braves to his most unexpected division title. But on Sept. 6, John Smoltz out-dueled Pedro Martinez to beat New York, 3-1, and keep Atlanta's lead at 6½ games – and, more importantly, keep a bunch of rookies focused on the ultimate goal. The lead wouldn't fall below 5 until after Atlanta clinched.

So, there you have it. Four seasons when the Braves could have gone meekly into the off-season, four division titles. Can Atlanta do it again in 2010?

A Wife's Pitch

BY CAROLYN LOWE

DEALING WITH THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, while Derek was pitching for the Dodgers, he made a public appearance at Universal Studios I'll never forget. It's not because we ran into Harrison Ford or anything, but instead because of a little kid who raised his hand to ask Derek a question.

I was prepared to hear him ask what it was like to win a World Series. Or how Derek throws his sinker. But this kid had something else in mind. With a straight face and an earnest voice, he asked, "Why is your hair always wet?"

I let out a burst of hysterical laughter. Derek elbowed me in the ribs and replied in his most sincere voice, "Because I sweat a lot."

Some things in life are a certainty. The fact that Derek Lowe sweats is as sure as death and taxes. It's why we didn't get married in the Caribbean.

Saying "I do" makes every man sweat, but I'd have had to put a bucket under Derek's chin if we'd have exchanged vows in the Tropics. Instead, we opted for Detroit... in December... in an outdoor tent! Seriously.

"During a game, I usually change my jersey four times," Derek said. "If it's a day game, sometimes more. One time in L.A., I ran out of jerseys. So, the equipment guy had to keep running up-and-down to the clubhouse between innings to put them in the dryer!"

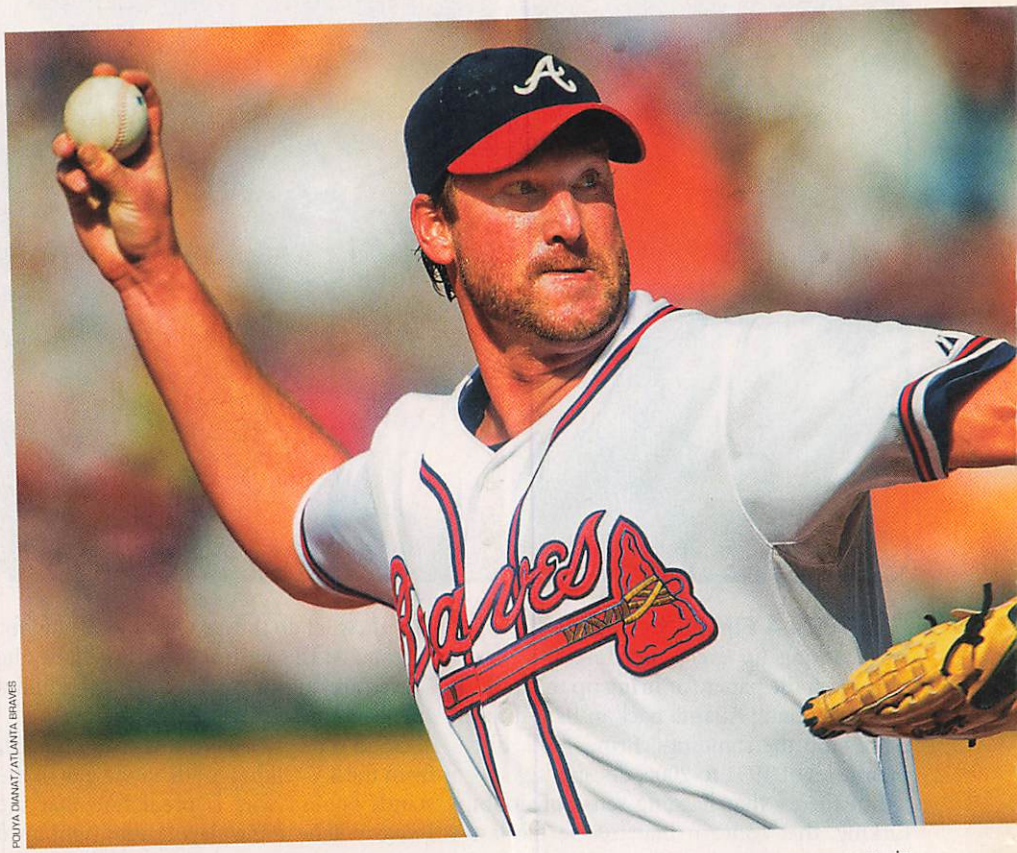
Now that I've established my husband could sweat in an igloo, I'm happy to report this summer is on pace to be the hottest on record since weather data were first collected more than a hundred years ago. That's pretty unbelievable when you consider the current record holder for the hottest July is 1936, the year of the Dustbowl!

So, while the weather service busies itself with daily heat advisories urging people to stay indoors, the boys of summer play on.

"It's debilitating," Derek said after his Aug. 8 start. "This is by far the hottest season I've ever had to pitch in, and on a day-to-day basis, it drains you. There's just no reprieve."

"There's only so much you can do," said Jeff Porter, the Braves' head trainer. "The key to staying hydrated starts the night before."

And so, Derek drinks, and drinks, and drinks some more. As much as he can stomach (literally) for at least 24 hours before a start. On the advice of his personal trainer, Chris Correnti, who has been with Derek since his days with the Red Sox, he mixes in a sports drink every now and then, as well.



POUYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

Derek Lowe perspires so heavily that he typically changes his jersey four times - or even more - in one game, and the excessive heat during his Aug. 8 start forced him out of the game due to cramps.

"I recommend a 2-1 ratio, water to sports drink," Correnti said. "Otherwise, the sugar can upset his stomach. Especially when he pitches."

During a game, it's more of the same. Derek will drink at least a 16-ounce bottle of water or Powerade between each inning.

"Derek's always been a good hydrator," Correnti said, "but he's also a big-time sweater. So, he has to drink considerably more than the average person."

As an experiment, Derek weighed himself before and after a day game start in Chicago earlier this season. In seven innings pitched, he lost *eight* pounds! The way I see it, if these temperatures continue, Derek's going to end up like Frosty the Snowman when he got trapped in the greenhouse... nothing but a puddle with a corn-cob pipe and a button nose!

When Derek comes off the mound between innings, you'll often notice the Braves training staff putting what's commonly referred to as an iced ammonia towel over his head.

"We don't have a lot of time to bring down his body temperature," said Porter. "By the time he comes into the dugout, if the other guy is throwing well, he can be back out there in a matter of moments. So, the main purpose of the ammonia towel is just to cool him down.

Porter went on to explain that the Braves don't actually use aromatic ammonia on the towels anymore. Instead, they use a product whose smell he described as, "sweet spearmint."

"The reason for this is just to make them feel better mentally. There's no residual

effect. The heat makes you so lethargic, this acts like a wake-up call of sorts."

With all Derek does to prepare himself to battle the torrid temperatures, sometimes the heat still wins. In his Aug. 8 start, a day game against the Giants at Turner Field, the heat index rose to well over 100 degrees. By the fourth inning, cramps took hold.

"It started in my right hamstring," Derek said. "But by the fifth, it was in my calf, my side, my hand and my upper bicep. That's when Bobby (Cox) came to get me."

Porter explained, "Once a player starts cramping like that, there's really nothing to do. It's one of the signs of dehydration that can lead to muscle strains and increased chance of injury."

Derek's only cramped one other time he can remember: "It was during a start against Kansas City probably 10 years ago. I didn't last long. It was so hot. All I can really remember is going from the dugout straight to the showers. I didn't take my clothes off. I just stood under the ice-cold water, dressed in my entire uniform! I couldn't get cooled down."

Derek's string of day game starts recently - four of his last seven at this writing - isn't helping him beat the heat. That said, he's only had the one cramping episode. If it does become a more regular problem, the team's medical staff can take extra measures to try and prevent it. According to Porter, another Braves starter who has battled cramps throughout his career is given fluids by IV before each game.

"We fought it tooth and nail, but nothing (else) worked for him," he said. "So, we started giving him an IV bag of fluids before games, and he hasn't had a problem since. "

"Derek may have to go down that road, but we'll wait and see. You hate to stick a guy every five days unless there aren't any other options."

"Recovery after a start is also important," added Correnti.

For Derek that means hydration, rest and what Correnti refers to as a "contrast bath" to prevent muscle soreness.

"You have to get blood flow to the areas that may be sore and fatigued," he said. "Going from a cold to a hot bath and back again helps the muscles recover faster."

Derek also tried wearing long sleeves during his Aug. 8 start. This may seem counter-intuitive, but because Derek is such a profuse sweater, the sleeves catch and absorb the sweat that otherwise drips down his arms.

"It's like a faucet on a low drip," Derek said, laughing. "My hand is soaking! It's impossible to grip the ball.

"I didn't feel any cooler or hotter with the sleeves on, but it helped a lot with the sweat on my hands, so yeah, I'll wear them again."

Derek has always been very routine-oriented. He and Correnti have worked together for so many years and have created a conditioning program Derek believes in very much. One thing Derek never does is cardiovascular work inside on a machine. Between each start, he runs the stairs at Turner Field or wherever the team may be on the road.

Derek says, "Why would I do my most intense workouts indoors when I have to compete outdoors?"

Porter agrees.

"There's one significant thing for sure: Acclimation. Today's players are in better physical condition that guys in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Yet the guys of that era used to play all day games, and there were rarely any subs. They played all nine innings... in wool uniforms!

"They didn't have the problems today's players have, and that's because they were acclimated to their environment. There wasn't such a thing as air conditioning."

I guess Derek's not as crazy as I thought running stadium steps when it's 95 degrees. It gives him an advantage, of sorts. I'm grateful for it because the Dog Days of Summer seem far from over.

"This is the worst summer in Atlanta since 1980," Porter said. "All things considered, I think we're doing okay."

EDITOR'S NOTE

Carolyn Lowe, the wife of Derek Lowe, is contributing a monthly column to ChopTalk throughout the season.

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POLIYA DIAMAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

SLAM-O-METER

IT HASN'T REQUIRED a math whiz to keep up with Braves grand slams in recent seasons. In fact, they didn't hit a single bases-loaded home run in 2009. When Brooks Conrad connected for a slam May 20, finishing an 8-run, ninth-inning comeback that beat Cincinnati, 10-9, it was Atlanta's first grand slam in nearly two years, since Brian McCann (L) hit one July 25, 2008, off the Phillies' Brad Lidge.

Suddenly, grand slams have become fashionable. In just 73 games from May 20-Aug. 11, the Braves connected for five grand slams! Conrad and McCann have two apiece, and Martin Prado hit the other one.

Conrad, as noted on the cover and in the feature on pages 22-25, accomplished the rarity of hitting both of his slams as a pinch-hitter, something that's been done just four other times in baseball history.

McCann, however, is the slammer that really should be watched. Not only did he hit his first career pinch-grand slam Aug. 11 at Houston to cement the Braves' 8-2 win in 10 innings, but it also was his seventh lifetime slam in just his fifth full season in the majors.

Even though McCann is only 26 years old, Hank Aaron's franchise record of 16 grand slams appears relatively safe at this point. However, McCann already ranks fourth on the Braves' all-time slam list and is right on the heels of Hall of Fame third baseman Eddie Mathews (8) in third place and slugging first baseman Joe Adcock (10) in second.

The Braves' season record for grand slams is four by Sid Gordon in 1950. Del Crandall hit three in 1955, and Aaron hit three in 1962.

Hopefully, this newfound grand slam trend will continue for a while!

DIRTY HANDS

IF BROOKS CONRAD continues with his incredible flair for the dramatic, perhaps a new generation of ballplayers will develop that doesn't pause between each pitch to adjust the Velcro closure on batting gloves. That's because - in case you haven't noticed - the 30-year-old rookie doesn't wear batting gloves.

Conrad takes a lot of good-natured ribbing from teammates about going to the plate bare-handed (except if it's raining, when he wears gloves).

"Hey, Brooks, you're in the majors now. You can afford to go out and get some gloves!" joked Troy Glaus to give an example, when he heard the nature of the interview.

But don't expect Conrad to change. Good ol' dirt is good enough to help him get a secure grip on his bat.

POLIYA DIAMAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

"There's probably a handful of other players in the majors that don't wear gloves," said Conrad. "I just like the feel of the bat in my hands. It's my personal preference, something I've been doing ever since I started using wooden bats."

When Conrad gets to the plate, and sometimes between pitches, he reaches down and grabs a handful of dirt and rubs his hands together... the way most players used to do it before golf gloves became standard equipment. He also uses pine tar and resin.

"After a game, I just scrub it all off with soap and water and sometimes a little alcohol," said Conrad.

Voila!

GETTING TO KNOW TIM HUDSON

ALISON SHIRREFFS

BOBBY COX IN ONE WORD:
Passion.

FAVE WEBSITE:
BassPro.com.

PICTURE YOU CARRY:
All my kids.

FAVE SNACK FOOD:
Miniature chocolate chip muffins (they're really for the kids).

FAVE HOMECOOKED MEAL:
Pot roast made with Worchester sauce & Coca-Cola.

FAVE VEGGIE:
Fried okra.

FAVE FRUIT:
Honeydew melon.

FAVE GADGET:
Droid phone.

TV:
History Channel or Discovery.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:
Martin Prado.

FAVE PIZZA TOPPING:
Sausage.

ALL-TIME FAVE MOVIE:
Tombstone.

FAVE MUSIC:
Dave Matthews Band.

LEAST FAVE EXERCISE:
Working my abs.

FAVE TEAM GROWING UP:
Braves.

FAVE BOARD/CARD GAME:
Pluck (cards).

HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

PICK SONGS FOR THE ORGAN

SINCE THE START of the 2009 season, Turner Field organist Matthew Kaminski (below) has kept Braves fans entertained with his clever musical selections when opposing players come to bat. The choices are mainly based on a player's name and/or situation, where people will know the connection in most cases.

For the Mets' David Wright, Kaminski plays "You Got It (The Right Stuff)" by New Kids on the Block. Sometimes, his choices test the fans' knowledge of pop culture. For Phillies second baseman Chase Utley, he plays "Holiday Road" by Fleetwood Mac's Lindsey Buckingham. The song became popular from the 1983 movie "National Lampoon's Vacation" and its sequels, starring Chevy Chase. If a team has brothers – such as the Padres' Scott and Jerry Hairston – Kaminski may go with "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" by The Hollies.

"I'll look at the roster two or three days before the series," said Kaminski. "And my wife [Kathleen] and I will explore things. So, it starts off with my wife and I thinking about which songs we would pick."

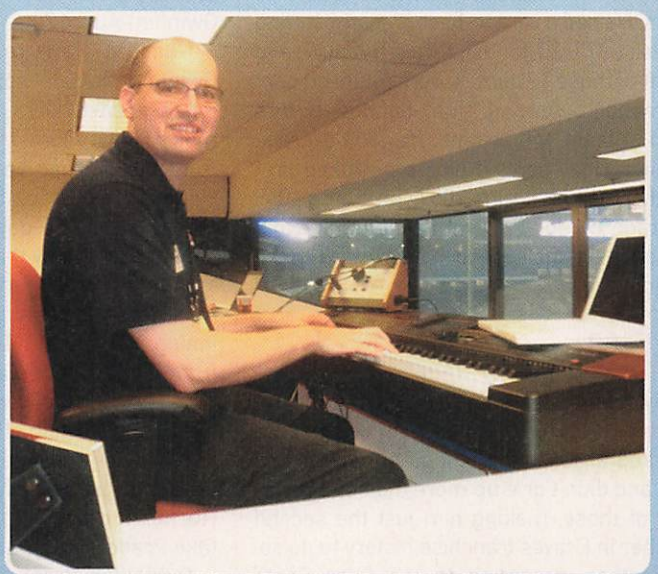
Kaminski also gets recommendations from fans via the social media site Twitter. In many cases, he will opt for their suggestions over his own. Songs that don't play well on the organ won't make the cut. He also tries to find songs that people recognize immediately after hearing the main part.

"I try to choose songs that bridge generation gaps, where everyone would know it," said Kaminski. "But then sometimes I don't have a choice, where it's a song from two years ago that older people might not know. Then sometimes it's a song from the 1960s that a lot of the younger people wouldn't know. I guess there's something in there for all types of fans."

Kaminski likes getting the fans involved in his selections as much as possible.

"When I can play a song that they've suggested, from what I've been told, it's a huge kick for them," he said. "They think that it's the coolest thing, and they'll tell their friends that was their song."

- STEVE FALL



MAGICAL JONNY

POLIYA OMNAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

Venters, 25, started the season at Triple-A Gwinnett but is pitching so well that he could thrust himself into consideration for NL Rookie of the Year.

IT SEEMS that rookie reliever **Jonny Venters** is a magician. Not only do hitters have an amazingly difficult time hitting his pitches, but he also can make a 4-game suspension disappear. Venters was ejected, along with **Bobby Cox**, from the July 17 game against Milwaukee at Turner Field when he hit **Prince Fielder** with a pitch after plate umpire **Angel Hernandez** issued a warning about throwing at hitters. However, he appealed the suspension, and after listening to the Braves' case, Major League Baseball rescinded the suspension.

Then there's Venters' pitching magic. Through games of Aug. 14, he led all major league rookie relievers in ERA (1.21), holds (18), strikeouts (64), opponent's batting average (.173), games (54) and innings (59.2).

OMAR THE GREAT

All-Star utilityman **Omar Infante** had reached base safely in 15 of 16 games through Aug. 14 and was hitting a torrid .362 (25-for-69) in that span. In his 60 starts this year, Infante was hitting .340 (85-for-250) with 11 doubles, 3 home runs and 24 RBIs. He had a career-best 12-game hitting streak (.377, 20-for-53) through Aug. 9, and eight of those 12 games were multi-hit performances. Among right-handed hitters with at least 140 at-bats, his .363 average against right-handed pitchers ranked first in the majors. From 2007, he has a .349 average (94-for-269) with runners in scoring position, the second-best average in the majors.

SPOT ON

By beating the Dodgers, 1-0, Aug. 13, **Tim Hudson** won his fifth consecutive start. He worked at least six innings in each of the five and didn't give up more than one run in any of those, making him just the second pitcher in Braves franchise history to do so. The other, according to the Elias Spots Bureau, was **Al Javery** in 1942.

ON THE MOVE

The Braves lost **Chipper Jones** for the season Aug. 11 when he tore the ACL in his left knee, resulting in surgery Aug. 14. For more on this story, see page 38. Chipper was placed on the disabled list, and infielder **Brandon Hicks** was recalled from Gwinnett Aug. 12.

Kenshin Kawakami was optioned to Gwinnett Aug. 7 so he could get some much-needed work, and the contract of rookie lefty **Mike Minor** was purchased from Gwinnett so he could start Aug. 9 at Houston. On Aug. 5, **Kris Medlen** was placed on the 15-day DL with an injury to his pitching elbow that likely would require **Tommy John** surgery. He had to leave his Aug. 4 start against the Mets in the fourth inning. **Cristhian Martinez** was recalled from Triple-A to replace him on the roster.

Martin Prado went on the DL Aug. 2 (retroactive to July 31) with a fractured right pinky finger sustained when sliding headfirst into home July 30. Infielder **Diory Hernandez** was recalled from Gwinnett to take Prado's roster spot.

Outfielder **Brent Clevlen** was activated from the DL July 27 when **Nate McLouth** was optioned to Gwinnett. Clevlen was designated for assignment four days later and accepted assignment to Gwinnett. McLouth was activated from the DL July 21, and **Gregor Blanco** was optioned to Triple A.

DEADLINE DEAL

The Braves obtained centerfielder **Rick Ankiel**, relief pitcher **Kyle Farnsworth** and cash considerations at the July 31 nonwaiver trade deadline in exchange for **Gregor Blanco**, **Jesse Chavez** and minor league lefty reliever **Tim Collins**. For more on the new Braves, see the feature on pages 26-29.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jason Heyward hit a home run at Houston on his 21st birthday, Aug. 9, to become only the fourth major leaguer ever to do so. The other three are Hall of Famers **Ted Williams** (1939) and **Frank Robinson** (1956), and **Alex Rodriguez** (1996). More importantly, Heyward's home run was his first in 115 at-bats over 31 games dating to

June 17. The rookie hit 10 home runs in his first 45 games.

WHIZ KID

On July 28, **Jason Heyward** became the first Braves player to steal home in 10 years or since **Rafael Furcal** did it April 9, 2000. With one out and Heyward at third base and Brian McCann at first against the Nationals, McCann broke on the pitch when **Eric Hinske** struck out. He stopped short of the bag, reversed directions and was caught in a rundown. Heyward timed it perfectly and made a dash for the plate, sliding in safely under the tag of Washington catcher **Ivan Rodriguez**. McCann took second and was safe on the play.

SHORT HOPS

- When the Braves scored six runs in the 10th inning to beat Houston, 6-2, Aug. 11, it was their 19th win of the season in their last at-bat, the most in the majors.
- **Brooks Conrad** hit a home run to beat the Dodgers, 1-0, on Aug. 13, to become just the fourth rookie in franchise history to homer in a 1-0 game. The others: **Johnny Bates** in 1906, **Eddie Mathews** in 1952, and **Ryan Langerhans** in 2005. All of Conrad's seven homers for the year have come in the seventh inning or later, and six of the seven have come in the eighth or ninth inning.
- The Braves scored eight runs in the eighth - their biggest inning of the year - to beat Florida, 10-5, July 24 at Florida. The rally was highlighted by a pinch-hit grand slam by **Brooks Conrad**.
- The Braves announced July 27 that they have agreed to terms with **David Ross** on a two-year contract extension through the 2012 season.
- Through Aug. 14, the Braves were 3-27 in games in which they score two or fewer runs. They also were 40-16 (.714) at Turner Field, the best home record in the majors.
- **Eric O'Flaherty** began a rehab assignment at Gwinnett Aug. 13, following a case of mononucleosis.

FRANK WREN
GENERAL MANAGER

I THINK OUR ROTATION STACKS UP AGAINST ANY

CHIPPER HAD SURGERY this morning, and everything went very well. Now we'll wait to see how long it takes for him to get back and how he feels once he gets up to playing speed again.

It's around the six-month mark to return to competition, so that would be about the beginning of March. It's realistic to think we'll have him back in March playing spring training games, if all goes well.

We were all, based on that play and how it unfolded, kind of shocked to see him laying on the ground in pain when it ended. Initially, it didn't appear that serious, and we were cautiously optimistic that it would be a week at the worst. To get the news we got was pretty tough on everyone.

Over the last six weeks, he really started playing so well. He quieted all the talk that had been going on since mid-June about retirement.

Jonny Venters sure is making a name for himself. There are a lot of good, young rookies, so that makes it difficult to say who looks like the Rookie of the Year at this point. But he's got a great future. If Billy Wagner was in charge of the voting, he'd win it hands down!

It's tremendous to have Billy out there engaging these young guys like he is. Venters certainly has the stuff to be a closer. How quickly that happens, we'll just let that go for now.

We made a trade at the deadline to get Rick Ankiel and Kyle Farnsworth from Kansas City. As we scoured baseball and looked at what we needed - some pop in center field and a bullpen arm that we felt comfortable with in the seventh or eighth inning - this gives us more depth and strength. At this time of year, you need to fortify the bullpen in order to stay strong, and Farnsworth was throwing extremely well.

> "IT'S REALISTIC TO THINK WE'LL HAVE (CHIPPER) BACK IN MARCH PLAYING SPRING TRAINING GAMES, IF ALL GOES WELL."

Ankiel started a little slow at the plate, but he was playing well defensively, and he was getting big hits. I think he was pressing a little, but when he settles in, he'll be a big part of our club down the stretch.

Nate McLouth is making solid strides at Gwinnett. We told him that we want him back when he feels good about how everything is going. We're waiting for him to take that step and get his game where it was a year ago.

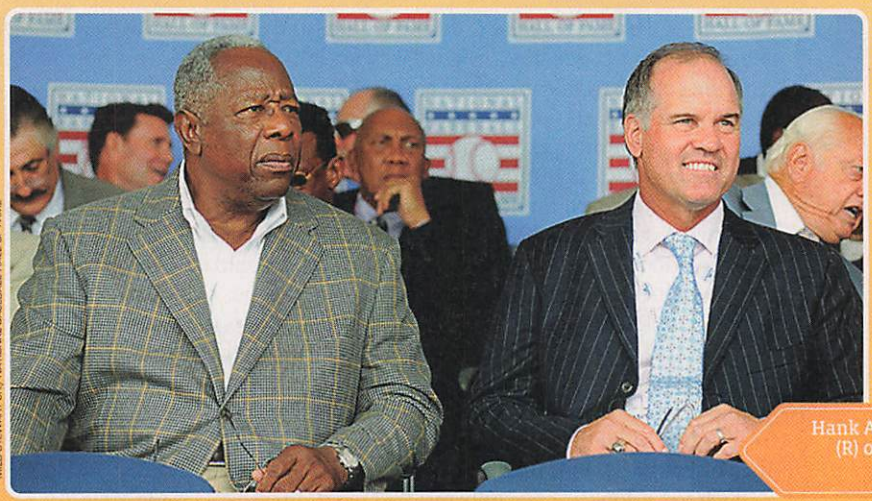
Brooks Conrad is certainly one of the stories of the year for us. He's come up big so many times. The beauty of it is that every player on our team, to the man, is thrilled for him. After nine years in the minors, he's here doing this and being a big part of the team. Everyone appreciates his diligence and hard work to get to this point and to see it pay off.

Mike Minor made a tremendous start in Houston. He didn't win it, but he showed he has the stuff and the composure to pitch up here. Kenshin Kawakami has pitched a couple of times in the minors and is starting to get his feet on the ground with some regular work. We haven't made any decision yet about the fifth starter, but everyone was impressed with Minor's first start. We feel good either way, that we have someone we can depend on as the fifth starter.

I think Tim Hudson stacks up with any pitcher he goes up against. JJ (Jair Jurrjens) is throwing as well as anyone and has really bounced back. The last few starts, (Tommy) Hanson is pitching like the Hanson of last year. Derek (Lowe) has really turned it around, too, and is pitching very well. I like our chances to match up our rotation with anyone in the division and anyone in the league.

It was a setback to lose Chipper, but I think our club is prepared for the stretch run. I think it's going to be an exciting September. We're still playing good baseball, and I feel we've been playing even a little better lately. I think it'll be a tight race to the end.

HANK AT THE HALL



MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Hank Aaron and Cubs Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg (R) on the stage in Cooperstown with 45 other returning inductees.

HANK AARON was one of the 47 members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame that showed up in Cooperstown, N.Y., on July 25 for the annual induction of new honorees. **Andre Dawson**, along with manager **Whitey Herzog** and umpire **Doug Harvey** were inducted this year. Others with Braves ties on the stage for the big event were **Phil Niekro** (RHP, 1964-83, '87), **Orlando Cepeda** (1B, 1969-72), **Gaylord Perry** (RHP, 1981), **Bruce Sutter** (RHP, 1985-88), **Bob Gibson** (Coach, 1982-84) and **Don Sutton** (broadcaster, 1989-2006, '09-10).

PLAYING SANTA

The Braves took "Christmas in July" to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta campuses on July 21. Participants included **Tim Hudson** and his wife, **Kim**, **Nate McLouth** and his fiancé, **Lindsay Rolen**, **Jonny Venters**, **Brooks Conrad**, **Jesse Chavez**, **Brent Clevlen** and his wife, **Amanda**, broadcasters **Joe Simpson** and **Ernie Johnson**, and former Braves **Marty Perez** and **Terry Harper**. They not only visited patients at area Children's Healthcare of Atlanta campuses, but also delivered toys that fans donated during the Braves Wives toy drive July 15-16 at Turner Field.

UPCOMING

The **Bobby Cox** Tribute is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2, an event no fan wants to miss. Also on the promotion calendar is Girls Night Out, which includes a pre-game party and fashion show, scheduled Sept. 10. Also that night, there's a Field & Reels Expo before the game with former Brave and outdoorsman **Ryan Klesko** (LF/1B, 1992-99). The final Bark in the Park of the season was scheduled Aug. 29. Advance registration was required.

SOUND OF MUSIC

The Braves Summer Concert Series presented by Coca-Cola and Delta Air Lines is bringing Montgomery Gentry (Sept. 11) and REO Speedwagon (Oct. 3) to Turner Field for free post-game concerts. Fans who want special access to the music stars can now purchase VIP Field Pass and Meet & Greet Combo packages, which include discounted game tickets.

Montgomery Gentry follows the game against the Cardinals on Sept. 11 that has a 4:10 p.m. start. REO Speedwagon follows the game against the Phillies Oct. 3 that has a 1:35 p.m. start.

A VIP Field Pass Combo for either concert is $55 and includes a $30 Field/Terrace Level ticket (normally $40) and a $25 concert field pass. A VIP Meet & Greet Combo for either show is $100 and includes a $30 Field/Terrace Level ticket (normally $40), a $25 concert field pass, and the opportunity to meet the band before the show.

These offers are available at braves.com/montgomerygentry and braves.com/reospeedwagon.

HIGH OCTANE

The Braves and AutoTrader Classics welcomed classic car owners and car enthusiasts to the game on Aug. 7 for the second annual Octane in the Outfield car show. The pre-game car show, featuring participating fans' automobiles, took place in the Green Lot with prizes awarded in five categories. Winners and runners-up in each category had the opportunity to showcase their automobiles in a drive around the field before the first pitch. Following the car show, participants watched the Giants-Braves game.

KIDS DAY

Young Braves fans were able to celebrate the last few hours of summer with Ultimate Kids Day at Turner Field on Aug. 8. In addition to $5 tickets for fans 14-and-under, all pitching and hitting games in Scout's Alley and entry into the Braves Museum were free. Kids also had the opportunity to participate in a pre-game parade around the field and run the bases after the game.

The Braves also celebrated Homer's "birthday" on Ultimate Kids Day with some of his favorite mascot friends including Harry the Hawk, Star from the Atlanta Dream, Chopper from the Gwinnett Braves, Pounce from Georgia State University, Aaron's Lucky Dog, the Chick-fil-A Cows, Scooter the penguin from the Georgia Aquarium, Gutsy the Flying Fox, and The Home Depot Tools: Hank (the hammer), B-Rush (the brush), Cutter (the saw) and Two Bit (the drill). Homer's birthday party featured a fantastic cake creation from Highland Bakery, consisting of a giant sugar "Homer" standing 3-D in the middle of a vanilla cake baseball field with a French butter cream filling.

KNUCKLING UP

Hall of Famer **Phil Niekro** and his niece, **Natalie**, founder of the **Joe Niekro** Foundation, participated in an on-field ceremony Aug. 16 to help raise awareness for Aneurysm research in memory of Phil's brother and Natalie's father, Joe Niekro, who pitched for the Braves in 1973-74. Fans can join the fight and Knuckle Up for Aneurysm Research by texting the word STRIKEOUT to 20222. By doing so, a $10 donation will be made to the Joe Niekro Foundation, an organization committed to aiding in the research and treatment of aneurysm patients and families. To learn more, visit joeniekrofoundation.org.

RALLY TIME

Every time **Brian McCann** hits a home run this season, nearly $2,000 is donated to the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research, thanks to the generosity of fans that pledged to support the McCann 16 HR Challenge. Fans could join the fight against childhood cancer on Aug. 16 by making a donation to the Rally Foundation in Monument Grove. All fans who gave $5 or more, join the McCann 16 HR Challenge, or make a Text2Give donation of $10 by texting RALLY to 85944 were entered to win a Brian McCann autographed photo. A special member of the Rally family, **Jenna Rohrbach**, sang the national anthem prior to the game in memory of her sister, **Alexa**, who was diagnosed with childhood cancer and passed away in November of 2009 after a long and courageous fight.

BALLS & STRIKES

- Rookie relief sensation **Jonny Venters** greeted fans and signed autographs at the Braves Clubhouse Store at the CNN Center Aug. 14.
- A huge crowd of 49,267 fans attended the game against the Dodgers Aug. 14, and many of them received a special treat. Mini Moonpies were distributed to the first 30,000 fans to come through the Turner Field gates. Additionally, a 4-foot Moonpie was on display in Fan Plaza to give all fans a unique photo opportunity.
- On Aug. 13, the first 10,000 fans to enter the ballpark received "Braves Play Here" t-shirts from Peachtree TV.

I THINK THIS WILL BE AN EXCITING MONTH

THIS IS THE BEST time of the year, heading down the stretch in a pennant race. This team worked hard, played hard, in order to be competitive in September. Holding the lead in the division through July and August is pretty good, and we have just wanted to maintain our position and get to the World Series.

That's been our goal all along - the championship. If things go right, we can achieve it.

Some things haven't gone right. We have had a lot of adversity lately, some really tough losses to key people. There's no denying it - losing Chipper Jones and Kris Medlen for the rest of the season hurt us.

Chipper will still be around after his surgery, and that's important for me and the team. It will be good for him, too, though I know it's tough to sit and watch when you're used to being out on the field.

Still, having someone with his experience and his knowledge of the league will be important. He'll have the ability to pick things up here and there and tell a guy something he sees. Who knows? We might win a ballgame because of it.

The six weeks leading up to his injury were the best I'd seen him swinging the bat for a while. He made some adjustments in his stance, and it showed in his at-bats in the Houston series.

I was thinking, "We've got the guy, another hitter, who could carry us for a month and a half." It was a hard way to lose him, especially when I could see his confidence coming back with every at-bat. He was really feeling good about himself.

> "IT'S A WEIRD THING FOR ME TO REALIZE THAT I WON'T MANAGE CHIPPER JONES AGAIN."

He was playing great defense, as well. That play that he got injured on was as good a play as I've ever seen him make. He made some stellar plays in the homestand right before the Houston series. I hate to have it end like it did.

You know, I watched him play in high school and then got to sign him, and manage him for his career. It's been a pleasure having Chipper. He's a Hall of Famer, and how many managers get a chance to have a guy like that your entire career? It's a weird thing for me to realize that I won't manage Chipper Jones again.

It looks like Kris Medlen will have Tommy John surgery soon, and that was a tough loss. He was pitching great. I can't say enough about how well he did. He has a long rehab in front of him, 12 months. It will be rough, but he's got some guys like Peter Moylan and Tim Hudson that he can look to for guidance. He's young, and hopefully he'll heal quickly.

Our bullpen has been one of our strongest points all season. We were able to bring in guys to fill the gaps, and also called up Mike Minor, to take (Medlen's) spot in the rotation.

I was really pleased to see how well Minor pitched in his debut in Houston. He didn't look nervous at all and made his pitches. He had some bad luck with bloop hits, but nothing seemed to rattle him. One of the guys who watched Minor pitch in the minor leagues for us was Tom Glavine, and he gave us a favorable report.

The season is winding down, but the division races are heating up. We've known it wasn't going to be a cakewalk and that the Phillies weren't going to just go away.

We've seen some pretty exciting games this season - grand slams, walk-off home runs, fantastic catches and squeeze plays. Time and time again, this team has shown they are not going to give up. I believe September is going to be an exciting month!

PLAYING PEPPER

MARTIN PRADO

ALLISON SHIRRETTS

INTERVIEW BY
PATTY RASMUSSEN

CHOPTALK: Do you plan to continue to slide head-first even after you landed on the disabled list because of it with a fractured pinky finger and saw what a head-first slide did to Jason Heyward, missing 13 games with a deep bone bruise?

MARTIN PRADO: It's hard to tell. When you're trying to score, you don't think. You just do it. Everybody says, "Prado, you've got to stop sliding head first," but I can't. This is the way I play. I can't play halfway. It doesn't work like that. I don't even think about how I slide. I just react. An accident like the one I had can happen when you're playing defensively, too. If you dive for a ball, your finger can get stuck in the grass or something like that. No one will tell you to stop diving for the ball. I wish I could have thought before I got hurt, but the time it takes to think... you just don't have it.

CT: Did you feel like you had something to prove to the Braves this year, that you deserved the second base job?

PRADO: To be honest with you, if I play 12 or 13 more years, I would still be trying to prove that I belong here and can play every day. You're going to have bad years and bumps in the road. You're not going to be perfect and good all the time, but the more consistent you can be in your career, the better. For me it's not about being the starting second baseman, it's looking all over my career. I want to do more than I am capable of every year. I want our team to change people's minds. By playing hard year after year, as hard as I can, maybe that will happen. If you look at Chipper Jones' numbers, you'll see a couple of years that might be down, but mostly he has big years. At the end of his career, he'll be overall above average. That's what I want to do in my career.

CT: How much did losing weight (14 pounds) and getting in shape using P90X help you this season? Specifically, how did it help you play better?

PRADO: I think I got much more agile. You can't play 162 games unless you're in the best, most perfect shape you can be in. You have to feel comfortable with your body, and then you can do better. That's what helped me, getting my body into shape that made me feel comfortable to go out and compete every day.

CT: What was your first reaction when you learned you made the All-Star team?

PRADO: I wasn't really thinking about the All-Star Game at the time of the selections. If you tell me something good, I'm always thinking I'm going to hear bad news next. So, the day of the selection, Frank Wren called me at home. I was having breakfast with my mom. He said, "Prado, you know you're going to the All-Star Game? Good for you, you deserved it, and I want to let you know that there's somebody going with you that you never expected." I was thinking, okay... I asked, "Who?" And he told me Omar (Infante) was going, and I was so happy. I was happier and more excited for him than for me. My mom was happy for me and Omar. She went with me. She was the only one. We had a great time.

CT: What's the best memory from the All-Star Game experience?

PRADO: The player introductions. I had a couple of tears come out. Just to be between Albert Pujols, Hanley Ramirez, Matt Holliday, that was a prestigious moment in my career. In those three minutes, I thought of all the moments I had in my career, in the Dominican, in the minor leagues, the people who didn't believe in me, who talked trash about me. I got those things in my mind in that moment and thought, "You did it, man." I had a feeling of freedom.

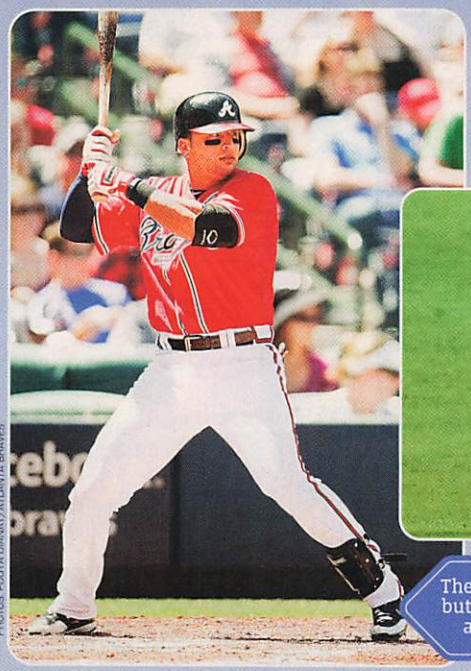
CT: What has been the secret to your success in hitting leadoff?

PRADO: I do treat it differently than hitting somewhere else in the lineup, because you do have to be more selective about pitches. I pay attention to all the reports that we look at. If someone says this pitcher is walking guys a lot every single start, I'm not going to go up there and swing at the first pitch. Everything in baseball is (making) adjustments. I knew it was going to be a challenge for me to be in that spot, but I think the key has been the support from my teammates, my hitting coach and manager, from Chino Cadahia. They're always giving me tips. Other than that, I'm just looking for good pitches, hitting groundballs and trying to hustle and put some pressure on the infielders.

> "I WISH I COULD HAVE THOUGHT BEFORE I GOT HURT, BUT THE TIME IT TAKES TO THINK... YOU JUST DON'T HAVE IT."

CT: Did baseball come naturally to you? Which aspect of the game have you had to work hardest on?

PRADO: I don't think I'm very natural. If I don't work, if I don't do anything, I'm not going to get what I want. There are a bunch of guys who have the skills from when they were born. They have a big start. Not me. I feel like I have to develop myself to catch up to the natural guys. That's okay with me, because at the end of my career, people will



PHOTOS: POUYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

The 26-year-old Prado may be a first-time NL All-Star, but he entered the season with a .307 career batting average and hit .302 in his minor league career.

> "THE (ALL-STAR) PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS. I HAD A COUPLE OF TEARS COME OUT. JUST TO BE BETWEEN ALBERT PUJOLS, HANLEY RAMIREZ, MATT HOLLIDAY..."

say, "That guy worked hard to be who he is," and I don't have a problem with that. I like to work for what I get. It means more to you that way.

CT: Fans know how hard you work at baseball, but what do you like to do when you're away from the field?

PRADO: I like to sleep a lot. I like watching movies. If I have family in town, I love that. I enjoy just being around them. I like to take my mom to lunch at a real restaurant. She cooks for me every day when she's here. On a day off, I might sleep a little later, 11 o'clock or noon. My mom usually has some food for me. We might go to a mall or shop, watch television or movies. We just spend time together.

My mom likes it here. It's relaxing for her. My sister has three children, and they're always running around. I told my mom, "You already raised us, you raised four kids. I want you to relax. You did your job with us." I want her to be here to enjoy herself and just do what she wants to do. If she wants to go to the mall, just go. If she wants to go to New York with me, she can go. I feel like mothers sacrifice everything for us, and at the end of that they should be allowed to relax.

CT: You signed with the Braves when you were 17 years old in 2001. What was it like to leave home in Venezuela for the first time?

PRADO: It was really hard. I was sent to the Braves Dominican Academy. It was so different from where I came from. There were four baseball fields, batting cages, and a huge building, nothing else, just grass and trees. There was some jealousy between Dominican guys and Venezuelan guys. We'd fight and didn't really get along. That was a hard time for me. By the time I went home, I told my mom I didn't want to go back to the academy. She convinced me to try again, and I had the same problem. But I did well when I was there. After the (2002) season, I went back to Venezuela. I told my mom that if they wanted me to go back, I wouldn't go back. But they ended up sending me straight to extended spring training (in 2003). I played rookie ball in the Gulf Coast League, and we won the championship.

POUYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

When Prado was injured July 30, he was hitting .315, fifth in the league, and was on pace to become the first Brave to collect 200 hits in a season since Marquis Grissom in 1996.

CT: Were you a good student in high school? What were you like in high school?

PRADO: If I was in class, I'd pay attention and retain a lot of things from the class. Then I'd read a little bit and I'd be ready for the test. That gave me the time to play all the sports I wanted to play. I was the head coach for the softball team, I played on the baseball team, and I played football while I was studying engineering. I wasn't really good at math, but I was pretty good at chemistry and other sciences.

CT: What's the best piece of advice you've ever received regarding baseball or life?

PRADO: Three things: Respect older people, listen to what they have to say, and be on time. A lot of baseball players think they have the power to do whatever they want, but there are always people who are wiser. Maybe their advice would save your life. Around this business, there are a lot of people trying to help you. There are some who just want to take from you, too, and you have to know who to listen to. Being on time is important no matter what you do in your life - whether you have a game or a doctor's appointment.

Grand Slam

From Sticks And Stones To Minors, Brooks Conrad Paid His Dues To Become Pinch-Hit Sensation

By Melanie D.G. Kaplan

When Brooks Conrad was nine years old, he wrote an opus that mapped out his career as a baseball player, declaring that he thought he had a pretty good chance.

"I would be a very good hitter," he wrote. "I would steel [sic] a bunch of bases and throw a lot of people out at first."

He even allowed for some flexibility in his position: "I want to play shortstop or left field, but I'll play any place they put me."

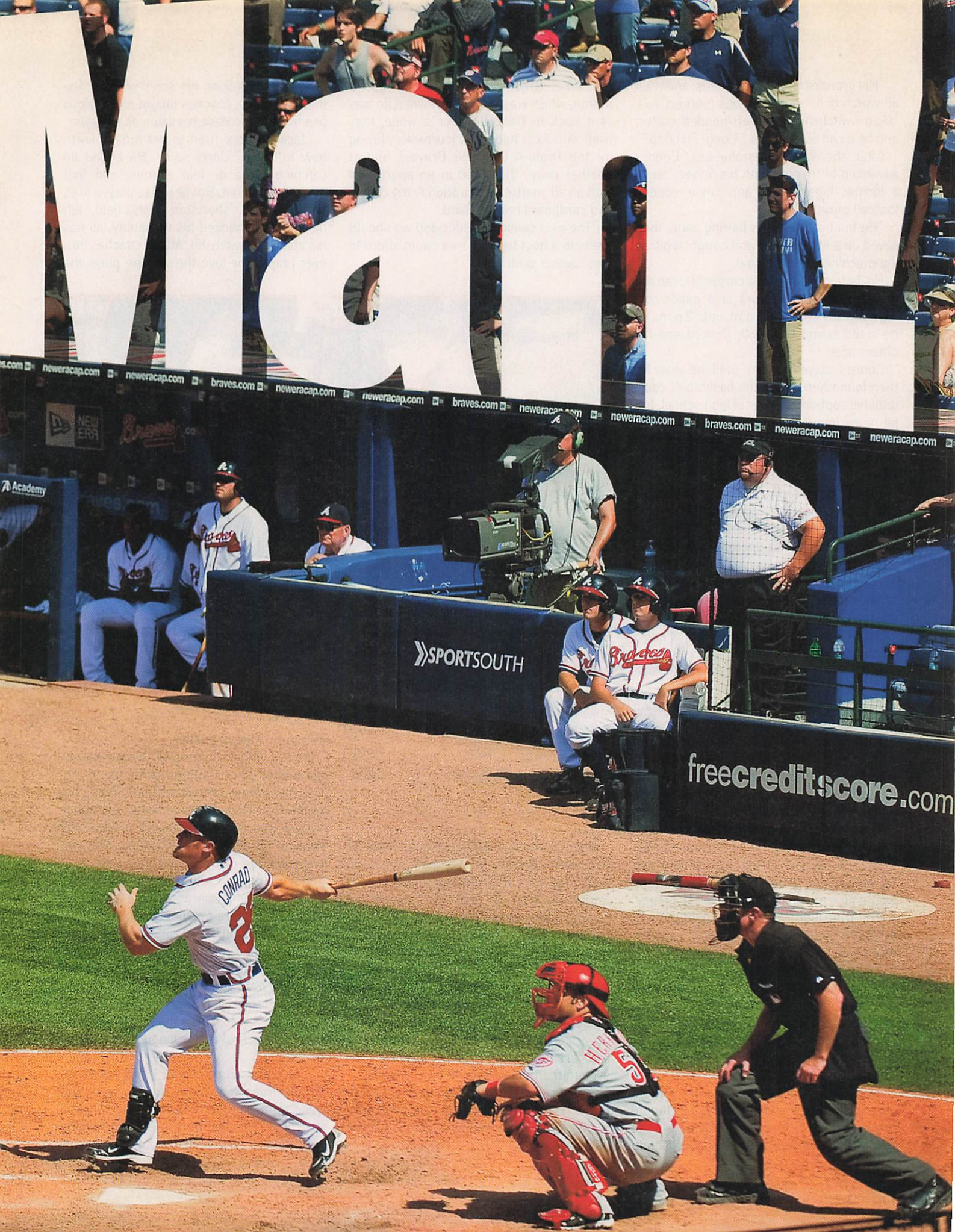
After spending seven years in the minor leagues, riding countless buses to towns barely on the map, and learning almost every position in the game, Atlanta's newest celebrated pinch-hitter is making good on his dream. And while learning the subtleties of being a bench player, Conrad, 30, has celebrated his first full Atlanta season with a bang, pinch-hitting three home runs, two of them grand slams.

"They were really cool moments, especially the first one," Conrad said during the team's July series in Washington. He became only the fifth player in major league history - and the first Brave - to record two pinch-hit grand slams in the same season. But no one has ever pinch-hit three. "I guess it could happen," he said, letting his mind wander, "if the bases are loaded and I have the opportunity again.

Growing up in San Diego, Conrad not only wrote about his dream career, he prepared for it diligently. Before he was 2 years old, he would spend hours in the backyard hitting a Wiffle ball that hung by a string from a tree branch. When he was a few years older, he'd collect a pile of rocks, find a stick, and write out his lineup (including whether players were right- or left-handed), calling the games as he hit rocks across the yard.

POUYA DIANAT / ATLANTA BRAVES

Against a backdrop of anxious fans and teammates, Conrad connects for a walk-off grand slam against Cincinnati May 20, completing an 8-run ninth inning that resulted in a 10-9 victory at Turner Field.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CONRAD

"His grandparents lived with us, and we'd all watch him," said Conrad's mother, Gail. "He'd switch-hit for a left-handed batter, and he'd call out, 'It's... a... Long! Fly! Ball!'"

After the stick-and-stone era, Conrad advanced to training with his father, Jerry, a former high school and junior college football player.

"He built a rinky dink batting cage, then saved up a little money and bought a pitching machine," Conrad said.

His father, trained as a carpenter, ran the maintenance department of a junior college and worked from 6 a.m. until 2 p.m., so he could spend time with Conrad and his older sister.

Conrad played soccer until he was 12, then found himself on the basketball court until his sophomore year of high school, but he never lost focus of his baseball dream. He collected baseball cards and hung Tony Gwynn posters in his room, occasionally joining his uncle at a Padres game.

He was recruited by a number of schools and ended up at Arizona State University, where he played under Pat Murphy (now the Padres' baseball operations assistant) and met his future wife, Jessie.

"One of my friends told me he was going to get drafted, and I had no idea what that meant," said Jessie, 29. "I was unsure whether I should date him. I didn't know anything about baseball."

But before she had a chance to decide otherwise, Jessie fell in love.

Conrad was drafted by Houston during his junior year at ASU, in 2001, and began his career in Pittsfield, Mass. He stayed with a host family, which is common for young minor league players making as little as $850 a month. He didn't have a car, and the host family never had any food.

"I went to visit him for a week, and every day we'd go to a deli in town , about a mile away," Jessie said. "He'd ride his bike, and I'd run. Then another player's girlfriend would pick me up on her way to the game."

The transition from a perk-filled Pac-10 athletic department to the minor leagues was challenging for Conrad.

"Your first year, you really have to get used to buses," he said. "Right after the games, sometimes we'd be on the bus 12 or 13 hours. You show up in the next town, and it's almost time for the next game."

Jessie and Brooks married in 2004, when Conrad was playing for Houston's Triple-A Round Rock Express, just outside Austin, Texas. He loved the town and was fortunate to play for long-time coach Jackie Moore. But in the Conrads' first year as husband and wife, Brooks earned just $1,400 a month, which was cut by $300 when he was sent back to Double-A. For a while, they lived with Josh Anderson (currently playing for the Triple-A Gwinnett Braves), and at another point, they lived in an apartment with an air mattress, Salvation Army couch, and cardboard box TV stand.

"The next season, we decided we should live with a host family so we could afford to live," Jessie said.

They lived with a family in Round Rock for two years - Brooks, Jessie, their son Jaxon and a dog - in a tiny bedroom. They were in Round Rock for so long (four years) that Conrad joked about running for mayor. But between saving on rent and Jessie working as a nurse, the couple made it out of Texas alive - and solvent.

During all his minor league years, even as some of his teammates left for different careers, Conrad never complained and never considered giving up, his family said. His parents grew more frustrated with the system than the ballplayer himself did.

"I'd say, 'Brooksy, are you getting sick of it yet,'" Gail said. "'You know, you don't have to play this game.' And he'd just look at me like I was crazy."

Jerry said during his son's years in the minor leagues, coaches taught him various positions to increase his value as a player.

"Jackie Moore tried to get him to learn how to catch," Jerry said. "He ended up catching three or four games, and that never panned out. But he's also played first, second, third, shortstop, right field, left field. That enhanced his versatility, as has his ability to switch-hit. All the coaches he's ever played for love the way he plays the game. He always hustles."

POLIVA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

Conrad (in the air) receives a hero's welcome after hitting the pinch-grand slam that completed the biggest ninth-inning comeback in franchise history, and just the second walk-off slam in franchise history (Del Crandall Sept. 11, 1955).

PINCH-HIT SLAMMERS

2-IN-1 SEASON

Mike Ivie, San Francisco	1978
Dave Johnson, Philadelphia	1978
Darryl Strawberry, Mets	1998
Ben Broussard, Cleveland	2004
Brooks Conrad, Atlanta	**2010**

Jerry and his son used to have conversations after games, often talking about hitting and timing, and Brooks would ask his father for advice. After he became a minor league free agent at the end of the 2007 season, he signed with Oakland. The two were having a conversation after a game, at about midnight in July 2008, Jerry sitting on his porch swing. Conrad told his father that the coaches were making changes.

"Dad," he said, "they called me up."

"They called you up? They called you up!"

Gail remembers her husband repeating over and over and then crying, before they ran to tell the neighbors. The Conrads flew to Tampa Bay to watch their son play third base for his first major league appearance on July 21.

"We named Brooks after [third baseman] Brooks Robinson," Gail said. "I played third base on a softball team. And here I was, watching him play third base and holding his little boy on my lap. I thought I was in a

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

dream."

At the end of that season, Conrad became a free agent again and signed with Atlanta. Last summer, he was called up from Gwinnett and hit his first major league home run, a 3-run game-winner against Washington July 3, in his first plate appearance. He was the first Brave to hit a pinch-homer in his first big league plate appearance since Chuck Tanner in 1955.

He spent some more time in the minors after that, but this year, he began the season at Turner Field, hitting his first grand slam on May 20 to cap the Braves 8-run ninth inning and beat the Reds, 10-9. His second pinch-slam, his fourth career pinch-homer, came July 24 at Florida in the eighth inning.

Conrad, who has appeared in 21 games at third base and five at second base this season, said the biggest challenge this year is learning his new role off the bench.

"You have to mentally prepare for when you might be coming in," he said. "I look at what pitchers are warming up, and sometimes that can tell me whether I'm going in."

Conrad's off-the-field dreams are coming true, as well. He and Jessie just bought their first house, in Gilbert, Ariz., outside Phoenix, where they will spend the off-seasons with 3-year-old Jaxon and 16-month-old Reese. Jessie will work part-time at a hospital in Arizona.

During the season, Jessie and the kids go to most games, and they bring home programs that Jaxon carries around like a security blanket. He knows all the players and coaches by sight, and Jessie said he pronounces all the names correctly, even Kenshin Kawakami's.

"He goes around the house closing doors, saying he's a closer like Billy Wagner, and when I give him milk, he says, 'This is my Melky Cabrera,'" Jessie said.

Even little Reese is getting in on the action at home, doing the tomahawk as her brother keeps up with away games on TV.

On the West Coast, where both Conrad's grandmothers live with his parents, the games are projected onto a big screen in front of the fireplace, and the whole family gathers when he's at bat. And not too long ago, a discovery was made at the house, which reminded the family just how far Conrad has come since the days when he played an entire backyard team by himself. While gardening, Gail unearthed an old, faded, illegible piece of paper - One of young Brooks' lineup cards, from back in the day when the dreaming began.

BATTER UP!

MATT DIAZ

SURGERY WAS SCARY BUT IT WORKED OUT

THIS IS MY FIFTH SEASON with the Braves, and it was the first time at the All-Star break where we were in the lead and not chasing somebody. It's definitely a different feeling.

We hit a rough spot in late July, early August, but we know this game is cyclical, and when we get hot again, we know we have the potential to win quite a few in a row and pull away.

Our pitching staff - starters and bullpen - is probably better than any of the staffs we've had in the previous four years. Playing behind them is a lot of fun. None of them is going for a strikeout on every pitch. A lot of our guys pitch to contact and keep the defense involved.

I don't feel we lost a ton of momentum in July and August. We did lose a couple of series, but we weren't getting blown out. We definitely don't feel overmatched. It's just a matter of focusing on each series, and sooner or later, you're winning two out of three several times. Then you look up and you've gained ground on people.

As cliché as it sounds, the key for our team is to go out and play a good game. That was the strength of the team in May, June and July. It was one good game after another. There was no sustained letdown, and if there was a bad game, it never had a lingering affect. We have to have a short memory, build on our successes, and go day to day.

My (right) thumb is good, healing nicely after surgery (to remove an imbedded splinter) and rehab. It was mentally challenging, going into surgery not 100 percent sure of what we would find. The doctor was fairly confident the infection hadn't gotten to the bone, but if it had gotten to the bone, that was very bad news.

> "I WAS ABLE TO COME BACK FRESHER, PHYSICALLY, THAN MOST EVERY OTHER PLAYER AT THE TIME."

I was happy until I got out of surgery and I looked at the doctor who said, "It was worse than we thought." I thought, "Oh, no," but then he said (the infection) was all over the nerve but had nothing to do with the bone. I was relieved. Once we knew we had all the infection out, it was just a waiting period until the wound completely healed.

There was no structural damage to my thumb, no sewing anything in there, just scraping away the infected tissue and waiting for the body to make more tissue. I still get treatment on the scar tissue.

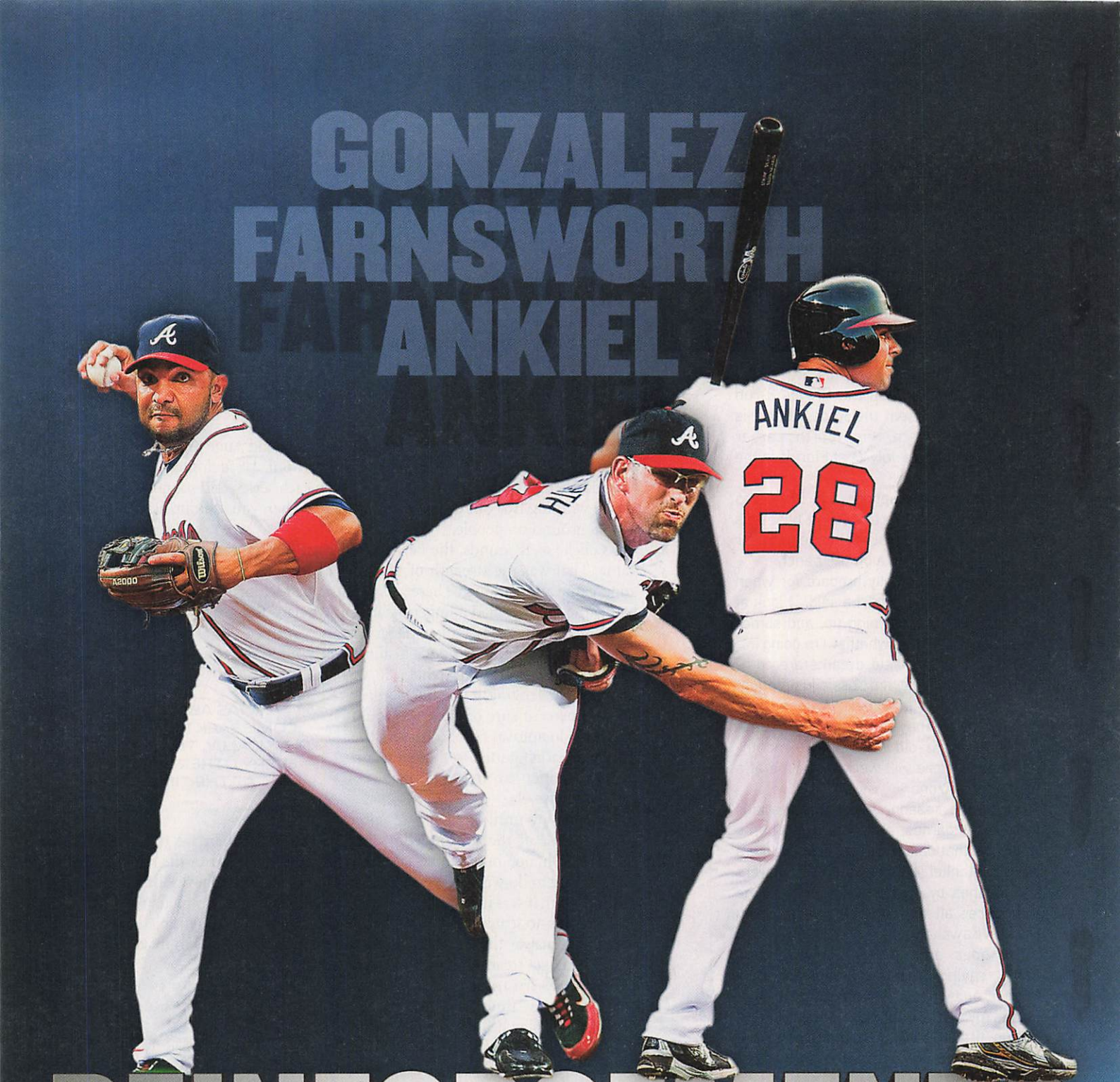
And it was frustrating getting hit by a pitch on the hand just two weeks after getting my thumb all better. But I dodged a bullet with that one, and hopefully, I'll stay healthy the rest of the year.

The word to describe me most during my stint on the disabled list would be "eager," because mainly the team was on the "up." I had my surgery in mid-May, and it took me until July to get back. They were playing unbelievable baseball almost the entire seven or eight weeks I was out, and I just wanted to be a part of it.

I do a lot of one-arm drills, so I was working on my swing right away, even right after the surgery. I watched a lot of film and thought a lot about my swing, my approach. I definitely didn't take any time off from working on my swing.

It was kind of nice to have the time to condition and lift weights, knowing that you don't have to play a game for six weeks. I was able to come back fresher, physically, than most every other player at the time.

You know, it was a digit, a thumb. It was just a hand I wasn't allowed to move, so I could even lift upper body weights, as long as I didn't grip the barbell. It was a good time to get fresh.



REINFORCEMENTS

Acquisition of Gonzalez, Farnsworth And Ankiel Helps Set Up The Stretch Run

BY JON COOPER

The July 31 trade deadline has become one of Major League Baseball's biggest in-season events, with the buzz surrounding who might go to which contender sometimes trumping the buzz of the who went to the All-Star Game.

Every year aces, sluggers, All-Stars and former All-Stars are sent packing at the deadline. But the biggest impact trades don't necessarily involve the biggest names.

Over the years, the Braves have made an art of acquiring players whose names barely created a ripple in rumored trade waters, yet combined to make a tidal wave-sized splash on the field.

One of the best examples came in 1995, when late-August trades (a month past the non-waiver deadline) brought in outfielders Mike Devereaux and Luis Polonia and reliever Alejandro Pena, a trio that provided the final pieces of the championship puzzle. Each played a minor part down the stretch, but came through big in the post-season.

The Braves are hoping history will repeat this year with two moves - picking up shortstop Alex Gonzalez from Toronto July 14 for shortstop Yunel Escobar, then, 17 days later, acquiring outfielder Rick Ankiel and reliever Kyle Farnsworth from Kansas City for centerfielder Gregor Blanco, reliever Jesse Chavez and minor league pitcher Tim Collins.

Will Gonzalez, Ankiel and Farnsworth be the Polonia, Devereaux and Pena who help put Atlanta back into the post-season for the first time since 2005 and possibly get them to the World Series? Here's a look at what each brings to the Braves.

RICK ANKIEL

With the tough breaks Ankiel has had since debuting in the majors in 2000, he was due a lucky one. On July 31, he got that good piece of news when Atlanta traded for him.

"It's an exciting feeling," said the 31-year-old Fort Pierce, Fla., native, who is with his second team in 2010 after playing from 2000 through 2009 in the St. Louis organization. "You come here every day knowing that you have a chance to make it into the playoffs and possibly into the World Series. It's been fun. Everybody gets along. They're always jazzin' each other, so it's been fun."

Fun has been at a premium for Ankiel, who was a flame-throwing lefthander with the Cardinals in 2000 when he was runnerup to Rafael Furcal for National League Rookie of the Year. He faced the Braves in Game 1 of that year's Division Series, but was so erratic that he was gone after 2 2/3 innings and several wild, wild pitches. His pitching career then went awry. Over the next four years, he won only two more games, partly because he missed the end of 2003 and all of 2004 recovering from Tommy John surgery.

He gave up pitching in spring training 2005 but refused to give up playing baseball, re-channeling his talents as a centerfielder. That quest, too, was derailed by a major knee injury in May 2006, forcing him to sit until August 2007.

Again he bounced back, and in 2008 played a then-career high 120 games and hit a career-best 25 homers.

Prior to the 2010 season Ankiel signed a one-year free agent contract with Kansas City. But the move west on I-70 didn't change his luck. A strained right quadriceps shelved him for 68 games.

Then came the trade to Atlanta.

He's taking nothing for granted and will make his own luck from here, thank you.

"You go from a non-contender to somebody who's in first place. It's exciting," he said. "I like playing. I'll wake up every day with that mindset, get up every day and grind it out."

That attitude has allowed Ankiel to take control of center field, a position that neither Nate McLouth, Melky Cabrera, nor Blanco was unable to hold down, and gain the respect of his teammates.

"The kid's got heart," said Chipper Jones. "You don't go from being a dominant left-handed pitcher and that falling apart on you to becoming an impact player in center field. He can dominate a game with his glove and his arm and with his bat. He's a good pickup."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PHOTOS: POUYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

POUYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

With Nate McLouth trying to work his way back to form at Gwinnett, the Braves felt a need for a centerfielder and obtained Rick Ankiel for the job.

POLIYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

Gonzalez had 20 home runs (17 for Toronto) at press time to lead all major league shortstops in that department.

ALEX GONZALEZ

There's not a lot of flash to Gonzalez's game, but there is plenty of polish.

The 33-year-old native of Cagua, Venezuela, has made polished shortstop play a trademark for 12 seasons.

"Yunel had a ton of talent whenever he wanted to play, but you never knew what you were going to get from him on a day-to-day basis," said Tim Hudson of the departed Escobar. "Alex is a true professional. He comes out every day and plays hard and makes plays for you."

"My role is to try to do my job," said Gonzalez, a career .970 fielder, a former National League All-Star (1999), and the Florida Marlins' shortstop on their 2003 World Championship club. "There's no pressure. Just go to the field and try to do the best that I can."

His best has included some terrific, bordering on spectacular, glovework, and the maturity to immediately overcome adversity in the field.

"I think Alex is one of the best shortstops in the game right now," said Hudson. "Pitching and defense is going to win you a lot of games. We've improved [at shortstop] defensively."

Gonzalez hit it off right away with his teammates and especially countryman Martin Prado, forming a smooth doubleplay combination that looked as if they'd played together for years.

"When you have that partner, a Martin Prado at second base, you don't need too much time to get comfortable," said Gonzalez. "He's one of the best second basemen I've seen play. When you have a great second baseman like him, you just need a couple of grounders to get it done."

Gonzalez also is having one of his most productive seasons at the plate, passing the 20-home run plateau for only the second time in his career (those 20 homers led all shortstops heading into August) and driving in his most runs since 2004.

That Atlanta is Gonzalez's fourth team since the start of 2009, and that in each of the last two seasons he was picked up at the trade deadline by a contender (last season it was Boston) speaks volumes and is no mystery to Jones.

"You want those guys out on the field that no matter what the situation in the game arises, their pulse rate stays the same," said Jones. "The guys whose pulse rate rises, those are the guys who are more prone to make mistakes. Gonzo's a guy that's very even-keeled, much like a lot of the other guys on this club. We know that if the ball's hit to shortstop with two outs and the bases loaded, that guy's out."

KYLE FARNSWORTH

Farnsworth is eager to prove that you can go home again.

"It feels good to be back home," said the 34-year-old fireballer who attended Milton High School in the Atlanta suburb of Alpharetta, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, and spends much of his off-season on a 2,500-acre plot in Georgia.

POLIYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

Farnsworth saved 10 straight games down the stretch for the Braves in 2005 when he had a career-high 16 saves (6 with Toronto).

"It's good to be back around my friends and family. It's always good to have an opportunity to be in the playoff hunt."

Farnsworth was in the hunt as closer for the Braves in 2005, ending with a disappointing playoff performance in Game 4 of the Division Series in Houston, a game that overshadowed a perfect 10-for-10 stretch run of saves.

But this time around, Farnsworth will be a guy out of the 'pen, not the guy, fortifying an already powerful relief corps. He's older and wiser, willing to let his fielders help him more than in the past.

"Now I'm trying to get quicker outs, groundball outs, stuff like that," said Farnsworth, who originally was drafted by the Cubs on the 47th round in 1994 and who has averaged nearly a strikeout an inning for his career. "The fewer pitches you throw, the more innings you can throw, the more times you can go (pitch) back-to-back (games). Obviously, the fewer pitches thrown the better."

A key turning point for the powerfully built 6-4, 230-plus-pound reliever came in Royals spring training, when he worked to stretch out his arm and try his hand at starting.

"I came up as a starter all the way until probably towards 2001, when I finally went into the bullpen," he said. "It was something that I wanted to try and they wanted to try. So I just went into the mindset of trying to compete for a starting job. I think it helped me become more of a pitcher."

And a more effective one. Through the first week of August, Farnsworth had not been scored upon in back-to-back appearances since being touched for single runs in three straight appearances in April. He's also limited damage all season, only once allowing two earned runs in an appearance.

He's new on the field, but not in the clubhouse.

"He's always been the same guy, real quiet guy, just kind of comes in, gets his work done, goes about his business," said Jones. "I can see some maturity."

That maturity, combined with playoff experience could lead to a big payoff.

Besides '05 in Atlanta, Farnsworth was on the '03 Cubs team that beat the Braves in a five-game Division Series and on the '06 and '07 Yankees. He would like to help get his hometown team to the World Series, especially in Bobby Cox's last season.

"I enjoyed playing for him last time when I was here," he said. "It's too bad that it's his last year. Hopefully, we can send him off with a win."

MAJOR CHANGE LOOMS IN MANAGERIAL RANKS

THE REDS approached **Dusty Baker** about a contract extension in early August, but getting a deal done did not figure to be as simple as one might think. Baker, a Braves outfielder from 1968-75, already earned about $3.5 million per season. He deserved a raise based on the Reds' performance this season. Ownership, however, did not want to go much higher, if at all. And, with so much turnover expected in the managerial ranks this off-season, the Reds knew they would not lack for options.

Three teams (Marlins, Diamondbacks and Marlins) were expected to end the season with interim managers. Three others (Braves, Cubs - **Lou Piniella** - and Blue Jays - **Cito Gaston**) are expected to lose their managers to retirement. A number of other clubs – including the Dodgers, Mets, Pirates and Brewers – were dealing with uncertainty at the position.

The Padres, not the Cardinals, made the harder initial push for then Cleveland righthander **Jake Westbrook**. In fact, the Cardinals did not express much interest in Westbrook, and the Indians viewed them as a poor trading partner due to the depleted state of the St. Louis farm system. The Padres shifted course in the final days before the deadline, telling the Cardinals: If we can get Westbrook, we would trade him and a prospect for outfielder **Ryan Ludwick**, hence the three-way deal that landed Ludwick in San Diego and Westbrook in St. Louis.

The Cardinals had two goals in their quest to add a starting pitcher: To complete a trade without sacrificing prospects – they had dealt seven young players for **Matt Holliday**, **Mark DeRosa** and **Khalil Greene** over the previous 18 months - and to keep their payroll at approximately the same level. Ludwick, earning $5.45 million, was perhaps their only player who could help them achieve both ends.

If the Nationals sign **Adam Dunn**, their refusal to trade him will make more sense. But for now, rival executives still can't figure out what the Nats were thinking. The team could have saved $4 million in salary by trading Dunn and another $2 million in bonuses on the draft picks they would have received for him as free-agent compensation. The players they would have gotten back would have had minor-league track records – and they would have been closer to the majors than any picks.

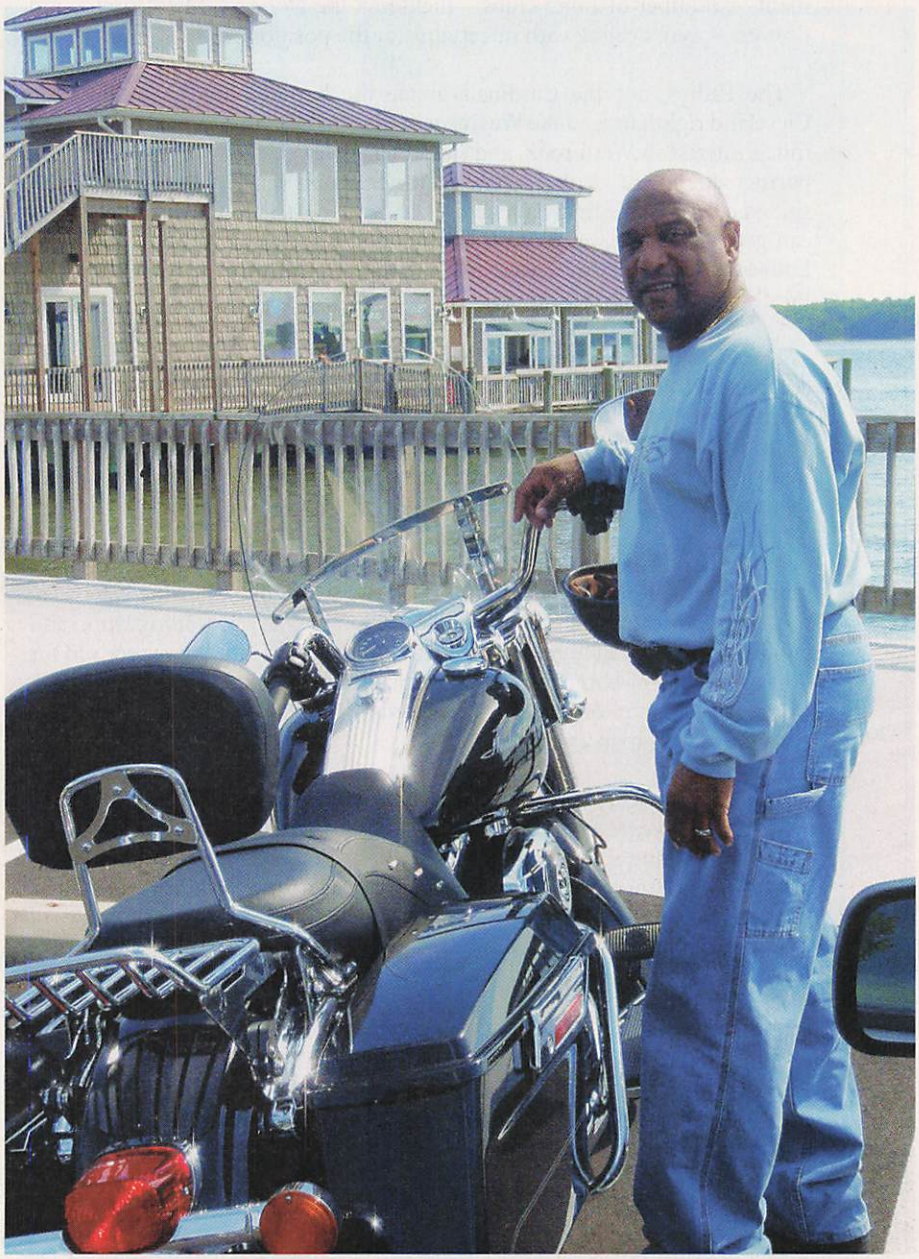
The Yankees were after **Adam Dunn**, but instead turned to **Lance Berkman** as an alternative, fearing that the Rays might get him. Berkman rejected a trade to the White Sox – the teams had agreed upon both the money and players to be exchanged – before agreeing to leave the Astros for New York. Yankees lefthander **Andy Pettitte** is a friend and former teammate of Berkman's, and Berkman said he needed "a little charge" at this stage of his career.

The Red Sox not only tried to trade **Mike Lowell** to the Yankees before the deadline, but they also discussed a deal with the Blue Jays for **Edwin Encarnacion** and a prospect in June. Yet, the season-ending loss of first baseman **Kevin Youkilis** validated the Red Sox in their decision to keep Lowell rather than simply release him.

- KEN ROSENTHAL IS A SENIOR WRITER FOR FOXSPORTS.COM

Day Off In D.C. Leads To Revised Definition Of "Road Trip" For Pendleton

ADVENTURE ON TWO WHEELS



MELANIE D. G. KAPLAN

A long-time motorcycle enthusiast, Pendleton prepares to climb aboard his rented Harley-Davidson Road King for the ride back to Washington, D.C., from Solomons Island, Md.

Melanie D.G. Kaplan is a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C., and has been a contributor to ChopTalk for 15 years.

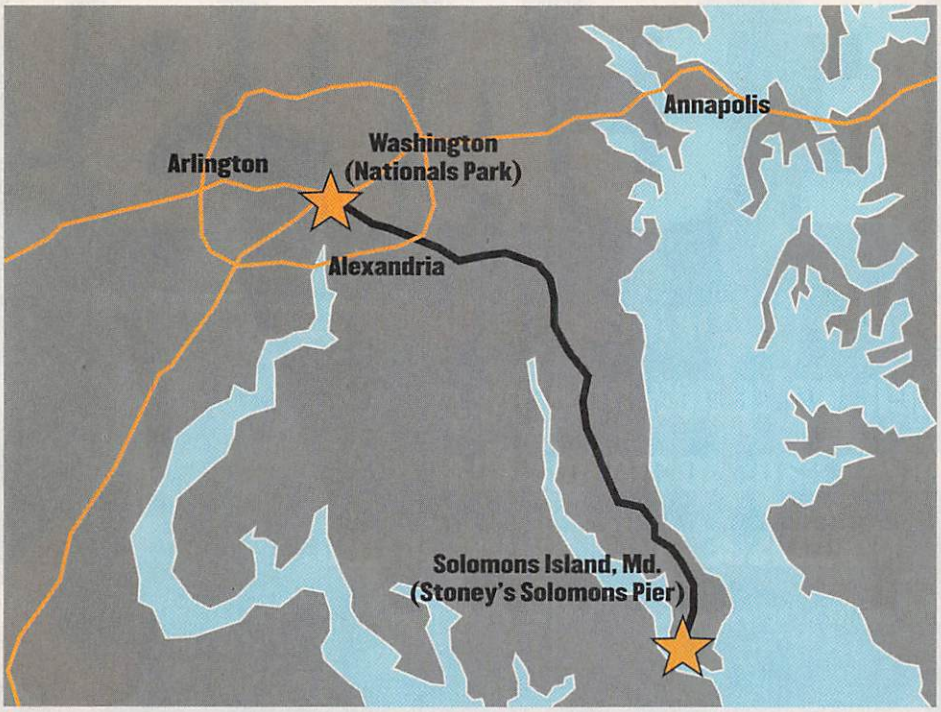
BY MELANIE D.G. KAPLAN

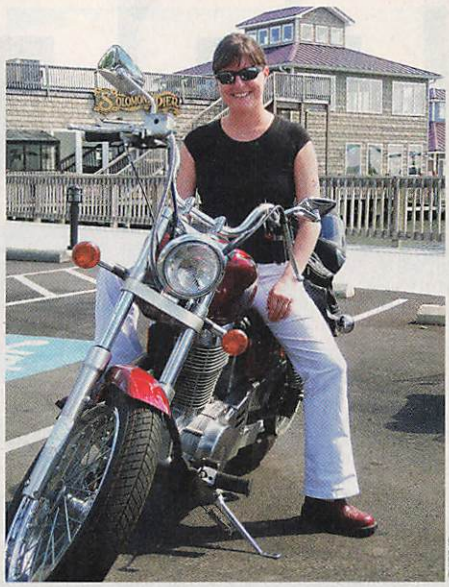
I'D BEEN WAITING TWO YEARS, two months and 28 days to ride with Terry Pendleton. But really, when we first made plans to ride in Washington, two days before Nationals Park opened in 2008, I wasn't prepared. I was a new motorcycle rider, I didn't know where to go, and I was still nervous exceeding 25 miles an hour on my red Suzuki Savage 650. When our March ride got rained out and instead we went to the Harley-Davidson factory tour in York, Pa. (June '08 CT), I was somewhat relieved. But this year, on the Braves' day off in D.C., the weather was brilliant. I was ready.

Monday, July 26, was the first day in more than a week that the mercury in the Nation's Capital didn't soar well above 90 degrees. I grabbed my leather jacket, helmet and a Maryland map and rode over to the ballpark, at last feeling confident about riding with a veteran (though I remain a very conservative and fair-weather rider).

Plus, I was eager to play hooky with the Braves' hitting coach, former third baseman, and 1991 National League MVP and batting champ. Little did I know that I'd unwittingly enlisted in a coaching session of my own.

Our adventure began at noon at Nats Park, a few blocks from the U.S. Capitol. T.P. followed me out of D.C., away from the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue, which continues into Maryland and heads





ChopTalk contributor Melanie D.G. Kaplan (above) mapped the route (L) for her 125-mile round trip motorcycle adventure with Terry Pendleton.

to the western side of the Chesapeake Bay. We seemed to hit every one of Washington's infamous potholes, plus some unexpected construction and traffic. The last straw was getting stuck behind the world's "stinkiest" trash truck, at which point I almost suggested turning around and heading back into town for a (Stephen) Strasburg-er at the Burger Joint.

But before TP could pull up beside me at the red light in his rented Harley-Davidson Road King, all the obstructions to our day on the open road seemed to vanish.

We rode east on Pennsylvania Ave., staggered, with me in the front, just slightly left of the center of the lane, and TP behind me, slightly right of center. When I wanted to change lanes, I switched on my turn signal, waited for him to move over - my sign that the lane was clear - and then I followed him to the lane.

The only problem was my turn signal. Unlike cars, many motorcycles don't have an automatic turn-off for the signal, so whether you're switching lanes or making a sharp turn, you have to remember to manually turn it off. I forgot to do that more than I remembered, but I thought it was more of a nuisance than a hazard.

"It's dangerous to keep that on," Pendleton told me when we stopped for gas in Chesapeake Beach, a small town on the bay. "You'll have cars thinking you're turning, and they might pull out in front of you."

When he saw how close to empty my 2.5-gallon gas tank was, he reprimanded me for not filling up in D.C.

"When you're leaving a city you know," he said, "fill it up before you find yourself in a place you don't know."

I unfolded the map and memorized our route - zigzagging along the bay, down to our destination: Solomons Island, Md., where the Patuxent River meets the Chesapeake Bay.

We passed beach resorts and then headed along curvy, tree-lined roads, past produce stands selling white peaches and sweet corn. We passed the Naval Research Laboratory, set atop sandstone cliffs that tower over the bay, and at times were the only ones on the road.

Then we hit a stretch of straight road with a speed limit of 55, and I turned the throttle, taking my speedometer needle to numbers it had only dreamed of visiting.

"Good ride," TP said after we positioned our bikes in a parking lot along the water on Solomons Island.

He took off his helmet and his Under Armour batting gloves.

"Get in the habit of parking your bike out toward the front edge of a parking spot," he said, "so a car doesn't start to pull in there by mistake."

Note to self: Stop pulling bike all the way into a spot.

At Stoney's Solomons Pier, I ordered a giant crab cake, and TP ordered fish and chips, and we enjoyed a 270-degree view of the bay and river. We talked about his bikes (a Road King Classic 1600 and a Bourget's Fat Daddy Beach Cruiser) and his rides during spring training. The first thing he does when he gets to Florida is unload his two bikes from the trailer.

He also told me about his family's surprise for his 50th birthday on July 16, when his son (Terry) sang the National Anthem at Turner Field.

"Everyone was in on it," he said. "Even Skipper (Bobby Cox) knew. It was the best birthday ever."

We headed out to the parking lot and strapped on helmets. I told T.P. I still get nervous taking some curves and occasionally still begin a turn in the wrong gear, which means I don't have the power needed to properly maneuver the bike.

"You have to control the bike," he reminded me.

He said one trick he used for improving his balance was to slow down when approaching a red light and try to balance it at a very low speed.

We rode back to Washington with a quick stop for gas, and I remembered to turn off my blinker more often than not. When we parked our bikes on Capitol Hill, we'd clocked about 125 miles - my longest motorcycle trip yet. I stood and stretched my wrists and back and massaged parts of my body that weren't used to sitting on a bike seat for several hours in one day.

T.P. nodded his head.

"You need to build up your stamina."

With that, the coach rumbled down the street, toward the ballpark.

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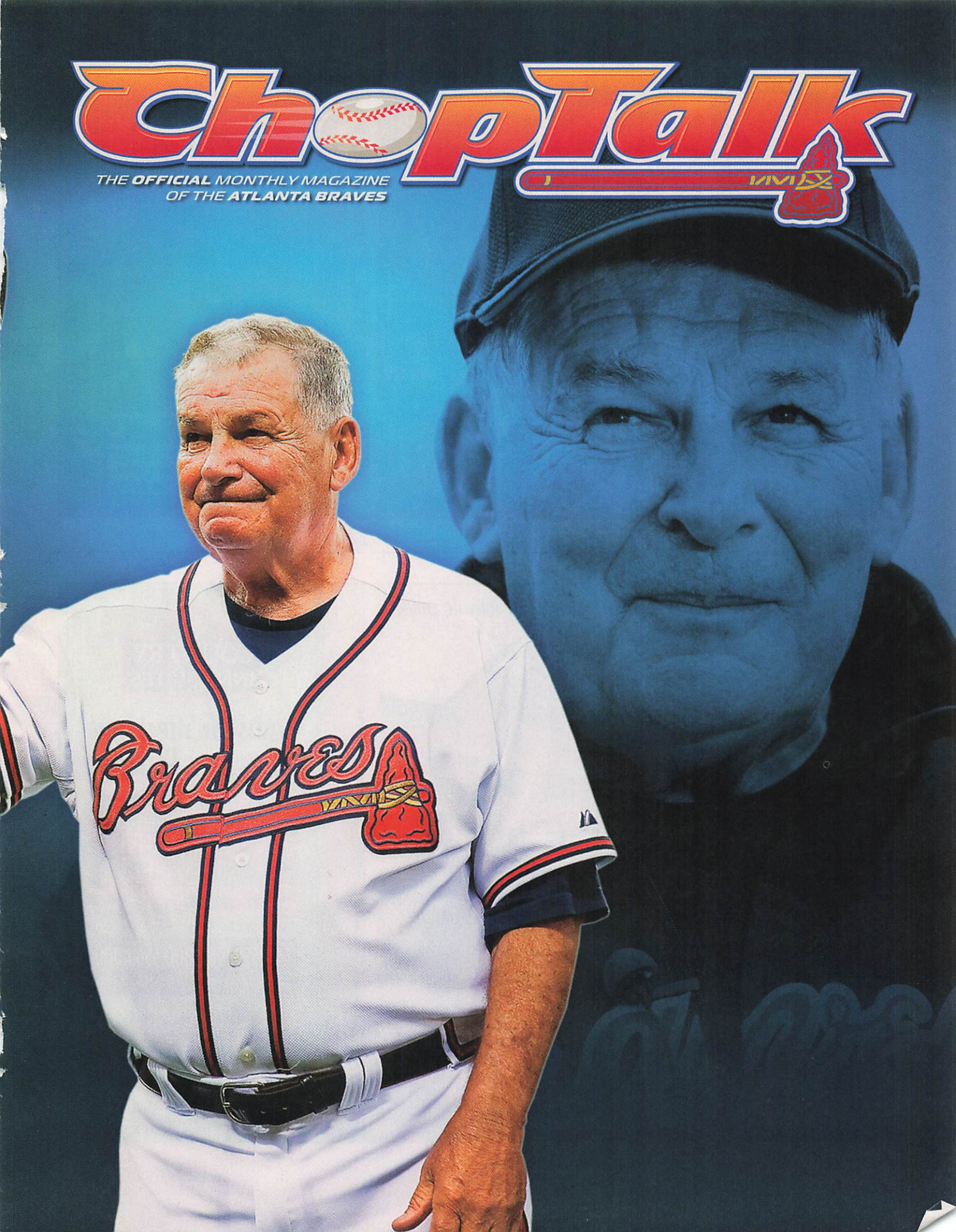

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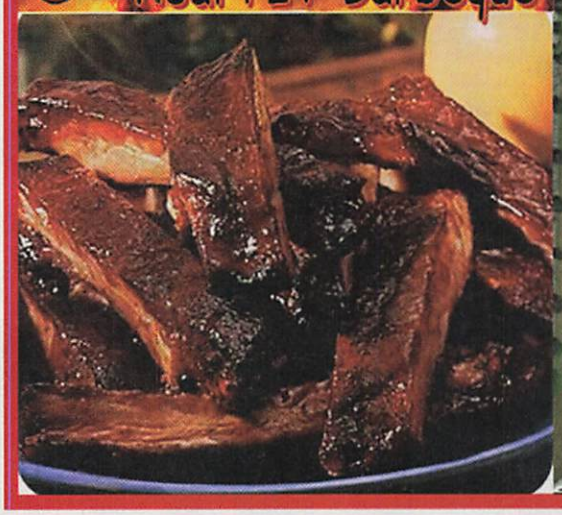

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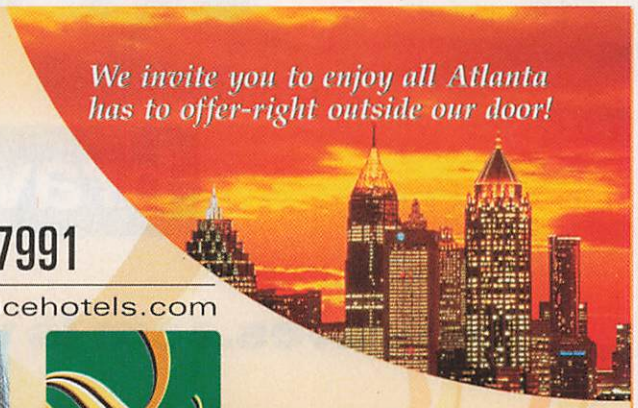

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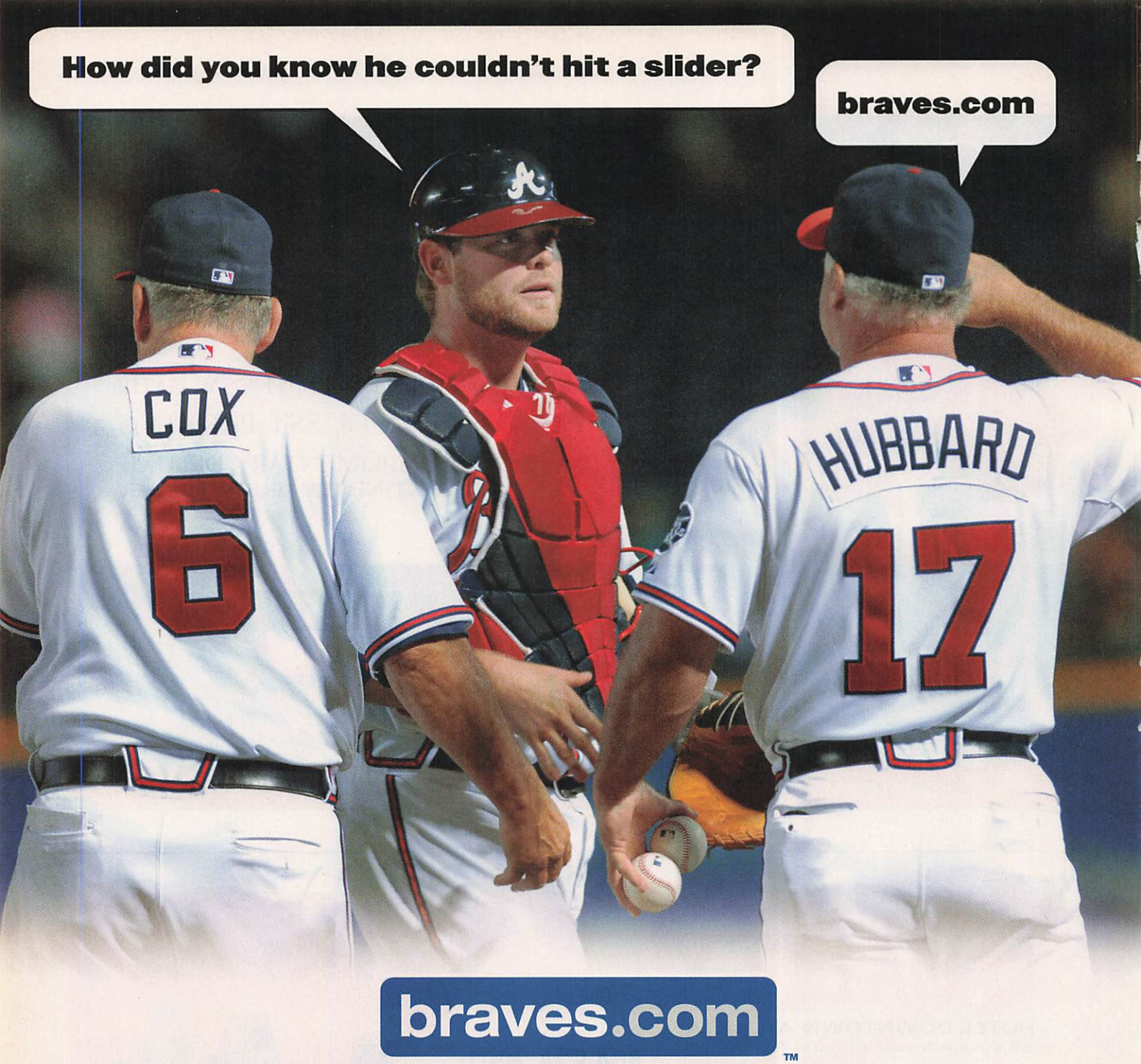

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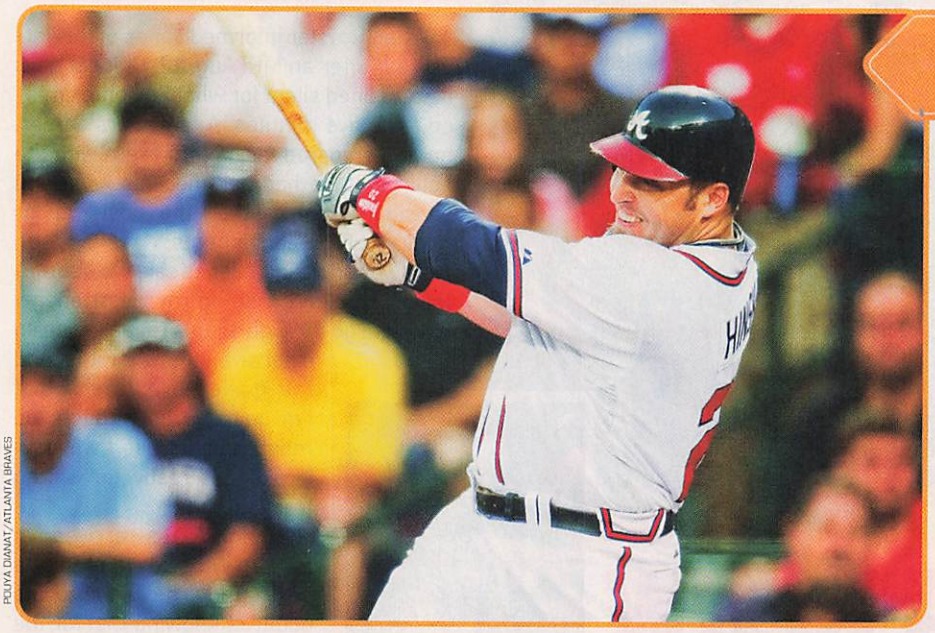
THE IMPACT OF THE SUPER SUBS



PEIJYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

Eric Hinske led the Braves in slugging percentage and was among the team leaders in several other departments in spite of being a part-time player.

BY STEVE FALL

IF NOT FOR ALL the contributions from their bench players, the Braves would not have led the NL East in early August.

The Braves' pinch-hitters had performed extremely well. Their .267 batting average ranked third in the National League. Entering games cold is no easy feat, which makes that statistic more impressive than it appears.

The Braves also placed second in slugging percentage by pinch-hitters (.467), fifth in on-base percentage (.336), and tied for second with five home runs. They led all clubs with 22 runs scored and tied for the top spot with 25 RBIs.

Braves players scored an NL-leading 40 runs when coming off the bench. These situations include not just pinch-hitting, but also when players enter as defensive subs or pinch-runners. Atlanta's .237 batting average by its reserve players placed sixth in the league. The club also ranked fourth in slugging percentage (.393), sixth in on-base percentage (.304), tied for fourth with six home runs, and had the third-most runs batted in (33).

Atlanta's bench not only contributed as substitutes, but also excelled as starters filling in for regulars. "Near regulars" like Eric Hinske and Omar Infante each started about half the team's games and made a major impact in doing so.

Hinske led the team in slugging percentage (.486) and ranked fourth with an .827 on-base plus slugging percentage. He also placed third on the team in doubles (19) and fifth in home runs (8), despite seeing part-time action. Hinske's 40 RBIs in 237 plate appearances projected to 101 in 600 plate appearances.

Infante had a sensational .342 batting average in 241 plate appearances. Just four players in Atlanta Braves history batted .325 or higher in seasons with between 200 and 400 plate appearances: Rico Carty (.342 in 1969), Matt Diaz (.338 in 2007 and .327 in 2006), Yunel Escobar (.326, 2007), and Adam LaRoche (.325, 2009). Among NL players with 200 or more plate appearances this season, only Giants rookie Buster Posey (.350) surpassed Infante's batting average.

Infante also had the third-best on-base percentage (.375) – among Braves with at least 200 plate appearances – after Brian McCann (.386) and Jason Heyward (.384).

Diaz, Brooks Conrad, and David Ross all played far less often than Hinske and Infante. Conrad and Diaz both had low on-base percentages, but had delivered key hits. Conrad had five home runs in just 103 plate appearances, as well as a .472 slugging percentage. Diaz had homered five times in 136 plate appearances and slugged at a .445 rate. Although Ross had yet to clear the fence in 2010, he had an impressive .383 on-base percentage.

The RBI percentage statistic demonstrates how well the Braves' bench players had fared at driving in runs. RBI percentage measures the percentage of baserunners that a batter brings home in his plate appearances. The top four Braves in this category were all bench players. Ross led the way by driving in 18 of 87 runners for a 20.7 percentage. Conrad (18.8), Hinske (17.3) and Diaz (16.1) followed.

Billy Wagner, Jonny Venters, Peter Moylan, Eric O'Flaherty and Takashi Saito had each made major contributions to the team's success. As a group, the Braves' bullpen ranked among the best in baseball.

In the NL, the Braves relief ERA (3.19) trailed only the Padres (2.77) through Aug. 1. They topped all teams in relief wins (21) and tied for the fewest losses (10). Despite getting few save opportunities during April and May, the bullpen jumped to sixth in saves (26).

A reliever's ERA can be misleading because he may allow baserunners that he inherits to score during his appearance. These runs get charged to the previous pitchers' ERA. However, the Braves relievers had allowed a very low percentage of their inherited runners to score: just 30 out of 123. The team's 24.4 inherited runners percentage trailed only the San Diego bullpen (20.6).

The Atlanta relief corps had excelled at limiting offense. They had the second-lowest batting average allowed (.229), trailing only the Padres (.208). They placed second in slugging percentage allowed (.342) and third in on-base percentage (.311).

Bobby Cox's 'pen had managed to keep the ball in the park, another major positive. They tied the Phillies relievers for the second-fewest home runs allowed (24) among NL bullpens. The Giants led this category (20). The Braves also ranked fourth in home runs allowed per nine innings (0.72).

The bullpen excelled at striking out batters, as well. The Braves' 9.5 strikeouts per nine innings again trailed only San Diego (9.8). The high strikeout frequency is important since it takes pressure off the fielders to make plays.

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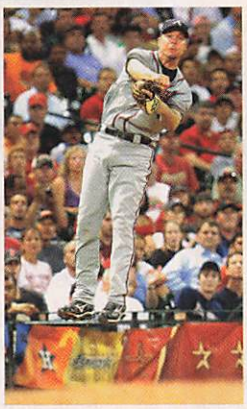

Chipper made one of the best fielding plays of his career Aug. 10 at Houston (inset), but wound up with a torn ACL that resulted in season-ending surgery Aug. 14.

CRUSHING BLOW

Mangled Knee Ends Chipper's Season, But He Vows To Attempt A Return In The Spring

BY MARK BOWMAN
OF MLB.COM

CHIPPER JONES has overcome the initial shock he felt when he was informed that he once again suffered a tear of the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. Now he's ready to dedicate himself to the grueling rehab process that will provide him a chance to play again next year.

"I'm going to try my best to rehab it, get it ready for spring training, and we'll see how it feels after that," Jones said during a press conference Aug. 13. "I think it would be wrong of me to make a decision to quit right now. Obviously, I'm pretty distraught about everything that has taken place in the last 48, 72 hours."

Braves orthopedist Dr. Marvin Royster surgically repaired Jones' knee Aug. 14. The 38-year-old third baseman is facing a six-month rehab process that he believes will be much less daunting than the rehab process he experienced when Royster repaired this same injury before the start of the 1994 season.

Because the ACL is now being repaired in an arthroscopic manner, Jones won't have to dread those mornings he experienced 16 years ago, when it took him nearly 20 minutes to straighten his left leg. Nor will he have to deal with the effects that were experienced courtesy of the incision that was made during the initial surgery.

"When I was 23 years old, I lost a step because of this surgery," Jones said. "If I lose another step, I'll be going backwards."

Jones suffered this latest knee injury while making one of the most acrobatic defensive plays of his career. After fielding Astros outfielder Hunter Pence's grounder Aug. 10 in Houston, he ranged into foul territory, jumped in the air off his left leg and made a pinpoint throw across the diamond to record the out.

While many were marveling at the fielding gem, Jones was on the ground in significant discomfort.

"I think I did it when I planted to jump," Jones said. "But I looked and I haven't gotten that much air in 20 years. I would think if it snapped right then and there, I would have buckled up right then and there and I would have never gotten the throw off. I can distinctly remember being in the air and having already felt the pop. So, I'm convinced it was when I took off."

When Royster informed Jones of this latest tear after an MRI Aug. 12, Chipper says he remained silent for what he approximated to be five minutes. A few hours earlier, he had prepared for an MRI exam with the belief that he had sprained his knee and possibly injured either the posterior or medial collateral ligaments.

"It was shocking," Jones said. "It's something I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy having to go through all this rehab, being so extensive. It is what it is, and I've made up my mind that I'm going to go through the rehab process like I was trying to get ready for spring training."

When Jones arrives at ESPN's Wide World of Sports next spring, he'll realize the oddity of knowing that for the first time in his career, he won't be playing for Bobby Cox. As the Braves manager prepares to retire at the end of this season, his club is in the midst of helping him experience a memorable conclusion to his career.

Entering games of Aug. 13, the Braves held a 2-game lead over the second-place Phillies in the National League East. While Jones plans to be around the club the rest of the season, offering support and acting like an extra coach, he realizes that the thrill might not be the same as it was when each of the first 11 full seasons of his career included celebrating a division title.

"We're in first place, and I think we're going to the playoffs," Jones said. "The only reason I say that is this team is very unique. We've got ballplayers in that clubhouse, ballplayers with some heart and guts. It's a bunch of guys that I'd go to war with. That's what's going to be so disappointing, that I'm not going to be in that foxhole with them."

If spring training arrives and Jones gains the sense that he will not be able to produce at a desired level, he may opt to retire. But after proving to once again be an integral part of the Braves' lineup over the past two months, this isn't the time or way he wanted to say goodbye to his Hall of Fame career.

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Skyline#	$1	$1
Upper Pavilion	$6	$8
Upper Reserved	$8	$12
Upper Box	$12	$16
Terrace Reserved	$24	$28
Field/Terrace Pavilion	$24	$28
Field Reserved	$28	$32
Golden Moon Casino Pavilion	$28	$32
Terrace Level	$36	$40
Field Level	$38	$42
Golden Moon Casino Level	$44	$48
Dugout Level	$64	$68
Henry Aaron Seats	$74	$78

#Available only at Turner Field two and a half hours before games.

*Premium games include all Friday and Saturday games.

2-FOR-1 TICKETS

* **Mondays** 2 Golden Moon Casino Pavilion for $28
* **Tuesdays** 2 Upper Reserved for $8
* **Wednesdays** 2 Field/Terrace Pavilion for $24

* Fans with college or military ID or a AAA card also can purchase two Upper Box tickets for the price of one.

$1 TICKETS

* **$1 SkyLine Seats** – Available two and a half hours before every game at the Turner Field Ticket Office.

* **Buck Belue Buck Night** - $1 Tickets for all Upper Reserved Seats On Following Mondays (all 7:10 p.m.): June 28 vs. Nationals, Aug. 2 vs. Mets, Aug. 16 vs. Dodgers, Aug. 30 vs. Mets, Sept. 13 vs. Nationals, Sept. 27 vs. Marlins.

FAMILY VALUE PLAN

Get 4 tickets, 4 hotdogs, 4 Cokes, a parking pass, a program and $5 Chevron gift card for as low as $59 (upper box seats). Upgrade to Outfield Pavilion for $79 (total) or Golden Moon Casino Pavilion for $99 (total).

PRORATED PACKAGES

Season Tickets, Half-Season Tickets And Weekend Packages Are Available On A Prorated Pricing Basis. Call (404) 577-9100 For Details.

PENNANT RACE 6-PACK

Pick any six games for as low as $90 and also receive $10 of free food/beverage.

Upper Box	$90
GMC Pavilion	$150
Terrace Level	$210

FLEX PLANS

* Minimum of 10 games for as low as $110 per seat.
* Change dates if your plans change.

Section	Gate Price	Flex Price
Golden Moon	$44/48	$42
Field Level	$38/42	$37
Terrace	$36/40	$35
Field/Terrace Pavilion	$24/28	$22
Upper Box	$12/16	$11

GROUP TICKETS

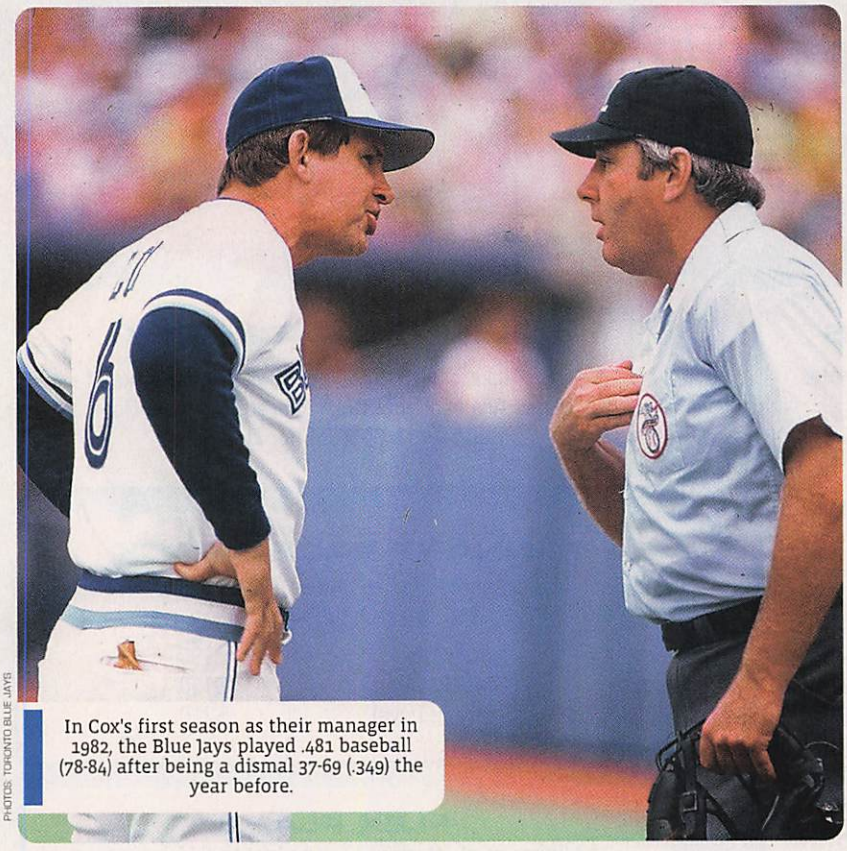
Groups of 20 or more receive discounted prices. Call (404) 577-9100 for information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

The Braves are offering all fans a birthday present - a free ticket to a game at Turner Field. Fans can go to braves.com/birthday to register for their free ticket to a game.

PRIVATE SUITES

Located on the Golden Moon Casino Level. Climate controlled suite plus access to outside balcony seating. TVs, refrigerator, icemaker, wet bar and telephone. Available from two hours before the game until the last pitch. Call (404) 577-9100.



In Cox's first season as their manager in 1982, the Blue Jays played .481 baseball (78-84) after being a dismal 37-69 (.349) the year before.

PHOTOS: TORONTO BLUE JAYS

NORTH OF THE BORDER

Cox Inspired The Blue Jays From Doormat To Division Title In Just Four Seasons

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

WHEN THE BRAVES dismissed Bobby Cox as manager following the 1981 season, then Toronto Blue Jays general manager Pat Gillick viewed the surprising move as a blessing in disguise.

Gillick was familiar with Cox from their days in the New York Yankees organization. He knew the hard-nosed, grinder ballplayer Cox was in his playing days and the players' manager he had become, both in the minor leagues and during his four years with the Braves.

EIGHTH IN A SERIES

#6 THE FINAL SEASON

"The Blue Jays were going through a drought, but we knew our club was going to get better," recalled Gillick, who retired as a GM after building the Phillies' 2008 World Series championship club. "One reason we wanted Bobby was that we had a lot of young people on our club so, knowing him, it was a good fit. Getting him was a great opportunity for us, and it wasn't just my decision. We did things as a group. Cox was our unanimous choice."

One of two Major League Baseball expansion teams in 1977, the Toronto Blue Jays were just five years old when Cox came to town. They had yet to put together a winning season but, like Gillick, Cox believed many of the components were in place when he arrived.

"The Toronto team actually had a lot more good young players than Atlanta did when I arrived there in 1978," said Cox. "In fact, they were pretty darn good. They already had good pitching in Jim Clancy and Dave Stieb and good players like Jesse Barfield, Lloyd Moseby and George Bell. They were all young, just kids, but great to build on."

Gillick kept two of the previous coaches in place, Jimy Williams at third base and Al Widmar as pitching coach, but Cox brought in John Sullivan to serve as bullpen coach and Cito Gaston, his former Richmond Braves teammate, to serve as hitting coach. Williams said Cox treated his coaches the way he did his players, always with the utmost respect and regard for their ability.

"He'd say, 'Just go do your job.' He wasn't looking over your shoulder, and he was that way for players, too," said Williams, an Atlanta coach from 1990-96. "The way he felt was, 'If you weren't good enough, you wouldn't be here. Now go out there and make these players better.'"

As usual, Cox went straight to the source to learn more about the team he would be managing.

"Before the season began, he was talking to our scouting and player development people about how they were forming the

club," said Gillick. "But the morale of our club was good. Our record didn't show it, but we believed we were getting ready to turn the corner. We thought we had all the right pieces."

Even with his previous managerial experience, Cox didn't head to Toronto with any preconceived notions.

"I wasn't thinking anything when I got there, in terms of a timetable for winning," he said. "I just wanted to win and we ended up winning the division in 1985, beating the Yankees, Baltimore and the Tigers. They were the powerhouses."

"Bobby was so professional," said Ernie Whitt, at that time a young catcher who ended up playing almost his entire career in Toronto. "I remember his first year seeing him sitting, observing everything, and forming his own opinions on players. That went on the first couple of months. He told you where you stood, what your role would be, and he always tried to put you in a position to succeed."

Whitt was put into a platoon with fellow catcher Buck Martinez, who later managed Toronto (2001-02), and now serves as a broadcaster/game analyst with TBS. Martinez didn't know much about Cox when he heard who the new manager would be, other than he came from the Dodgers and Yankees organizations.

"He had good baseball roots," said Martinez. "And he set the tone in spring training. He watched players and decided what he had, then spoke to players one-on-one to tell us what our roles where. Then he wished us luck and kicked us out. I remember him saying to me, 'You and Ernie Whitt are going to platoon at catcher.' We knew exactly what our roles were."

Both Martinez and Whitt said they believed the platoon helped extend their careers. "When I went to Toronto in 1981, I thought it would be the end of my career, but it was rejuvenated," said Martinez.

"Using the two-man system for catchers, we always knew when we'd be in the lineup and how to prepare for a game," added Whitt. "A big part of managing a game is managing people. Of course, I wanted to catch every game, but that wasn't realistic. His way taught me to take the long view. And by platooning me, he gave me longevity. I give him a lot of credit for the longevity of my career."

The Blue Jays played in Canadian National Exhibition Stadium, commonly referred to as Exhibition Stadium or even, wryly, the "Mistake by the Lake." Located near Lake Ontario, the stadium was originally built for Canadian football and reconfigured in the mid-1970s with a section of covered bleachers to accommodate baseball viewing. Because it was a multi-use stadium, the field was covered with artificial turf rather than grass.

The Blue Jays endured wintry weather, including snowfall, dense fog that sometimes rolled in from the lake, an abundance of seagulls feeding, and high winds. In 1984, a game was called due to 60-miles-per-hour winds. Blue Jays starting pitcher Jim Clancy was actually blown off balance.

"I felt bad for the fans, because they had to sit through some inclement weather," said Whitt. "Because the field was rounded in the center, sometimes I could only see the centerfielder from the waist up."

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Cox led the Jays to their first division title during his final season in Toronto (1985) to begin a personal streak of 15 straight division titles in completed seasons he managed from start to finish.

But field and stadium conditions didn't matter to Cox. He knew he had the makings of a good team, and in true Cox fashion, went about inspiring his troops.

"He was outstanding as a manager in every way, his field generalship, his handling of personnel," said Leon Roberts, a veteran utility player who joined Toronto for part of the season in 1982. Roberts currently works with the Braves organization as the minor league hitting coordinator.

Cox used Roberts in an outfield platoon, and sometimes as the designated hitter.

"Bobby told me, 'Your role here is to help out as a veteran presence, pinch-hit, and have fun,'" Roberts said. "We had a young but pretty good team, and Bobby's so good at that, handling the mix of veterans, new guys, young players, the whole mix. He had a tremendous knack for picking the right blend of players."

Roberts remembered Cox's enthusiasm for his team.

"The main thing that stood out to me, as I look back, is that when the game was fixin' to start, he was as excited as the players," said Roberts. "He'd be talking it up in the dugout, saying all his stuff. It was refreshing to watch him lead his troops. He was the head cheerleader."

The passion Cox had for the game and for winning inspired his young team.

"He showed us the only thing that mattered was winning," said Martinez. "He had a passion for winning. As the days went on, we saw the intensity and belief that we could win."

Gillick said Cox's passion was the key to his success in Toronto.

"It transcends everything he is," Gillick said. "He has enormous respect for the game, and people see it. It's contagious and makes them just as respectful of it."

"I don't know if I would call him fiery as much as he was always a very competitive guy," recalled Whitt. "He really stuck up for the players, and if an umpire was messing with a guy, the strike zone (or) whatever, that wasn't going to be tolerated. The players loved him for it, and it gave him immediate respect from them."

Cox had one rule: Play hard at all times.

"I think he wanted to play so badly that he hated to see anyone waste that ability," said Martinez. "At the same time, it wasn't about him at all. It was always about the players with Bobby. He was truly in the players' corner, even when it might have cost him."

Whitt remembered a time when he was on the receiving end of Cox's patience.

"I was in a bad slump. I was 0-for-12 or 0-for-15," said Whitt. "Bobby came up to me, put his arm around my shoulders, and said, 'The sun will come up tomorrow. You don't have to come into the clubhouse and wonder if your name will be in the lineup. I told you your role, and if it's your time, you're in the lineup.' He took a big load off my shoulders by telling me that. He had a great ability to take the pressure off his players, and he helped turn my career around."

The Blue Jays finished sixth in the

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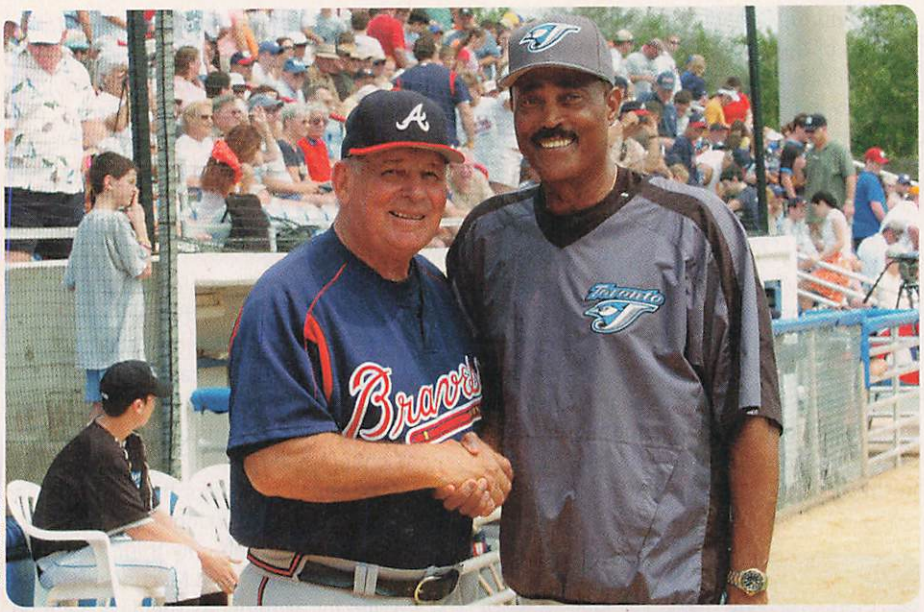

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Cox with current Toronto manager Clarence "Cito" Gaston in spring training. The two were teammates in the minors, and Gaston played on Cox's first Braves team in 1978 and was his Blue Jays hitting coach.

American League East in 1982, Cox's first year managing there. They were 78-84 (.481) after being a dismal 37-69 (.349) the previous season. Each successive season, they climbed two rungs on the division ladder, finishing fourth in 1983 (89-73, the organization's first winning season) and second in 1984 (89-73).

"Gillick was doing some tweaking, adding guys each year," recalled Cox.

"We had some great bench guys in 1984 and 1985," said Martinez. "And 1983 might have had the best team of all of them. Cox always stressed defense, baserunning. In 1985, we had athletes all over the place."

"In the 1984 season, we all knew we were a closer away from winning the division," said Whitt. "We were still a young team, but we had a lot of talent."

In 1985, Gillick brought in Bill Caudill and Gary Lavelle to shore up the rotation. Tom Henke became the closer halfway through the season and, as Whitt projected, the team ended up winning the division for the first time in franchise history. The Blue Jays won 99 games and edged the second-place Yankees by two games. They went on to face the Kansas City Royals in the American League Championship Series but lost, 4 games to 3.

Nevertheless, the taste of winning had an effect on the organization.

"We'd been the doormat for so many years," said Whitt. "The Blue Jays always did a great job of marketing the teams that came in to play us and finally had a reason to market the team, and Bobby was a big part of that development."

Cox wrought great changes to the Toronto ballclub, but there were more personal changes in store for him after that 1985 season. The Braves once again came calling, but this time they wanted Cox to serve as the general manager.

"I came back to Atlanta because I had the chance to be the GM, and I lived in Atlanta. I was married to Pam by that time," said Cox. "I didn't have any understanding that I would go back to the field."

"I remember seeing him at the winter meetings in 1985 and being disappointed when I learned he was going to Atlanta," said Martinez. "It was a sad day, the day Bobby left Toronto."

Cox had always enjoyed player development and was about to preside over a major overhaul of the Braves' scouting and player development system and would also be instrumental in shaping the Braves' future in signing off on key draft selections. Cox's move to the front office would prove to be just as successful as his career on the field.

NEXT MONTH: PART NINE.

Chipper-Cox Long-Term Relationship Is Unique In Modern Baseball History

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

CHIPPER JONES and Bobby Cox share a bond forged when Jones was still an 18-year-old high school senior and Cox was the Braves' general manager. It's likely the most unique relationship of its kind in modern baseball history.

As the potential number-one draft pick in 1990, Jones was followed by Braves scouts Tony DeMacio and Dean Jongewaard on an almost daily basis. Jones, playing at The Bolles High School in Jacksonville, Fla., was well aware that teams were doing their research, which meant there were times the brass came in for a first-hand look.

STORIES OF BOBBY

"I know Bobby saw me work out in practice one day, and I probably had the best batting practice session of my entire life," said Jones, laughing at the memory. "If I got 25 swings, I hit 20 balls out of the park. I remember taking infield practice, and my coach hit a groundball that took a bad hop about five feet in front of me and I caught it, bare-handed, over my right shoulder, and made the play. It was just one of those instances when everyone on the field goes, 'Wow!' I remember thinking, 'That might have done it right there.'"

Jones knew the Braves were also looking at a tall pitcher from Texas named Todd Van Poppel.

"I knew Bobby loved us both, and to be honest with you, if I'd been a scout, he (Van Poppel) was the gem of the draft," said Jones. "You don't have 98 mph guys coming out of high school, big 6-foot-6 frame, 230 pounds, lofty, lofty numbers, from a really good baseball area.

"I don't know the inner workings of what was said, but apparently I made enough of an impression. It's one of those things where if you have the first pick, you can't take any chance. I think if Van Poppel (who had a mediocre career with several teams from 1991-2004) had given

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

the impression he was signable they would have taken him. But he flat out said he was going to Texas to go to school. You can't miss when you have the first pick."

Once he was chosen by the Braves, Jones was determined to live up to the selection.

"There was a lot of negative press about them taking me number one, and Bobby was the one who ultimately signed off on that selection," he said. "I made it my mission to not have him take any heat because he picked me. I wanted to go out and make him proud, to work as hard as anybody else and get to the big leagues, and hopefully have him standing there being proud of me. I think we're there."

Jones didn't know Cox at all prior to his selection. Their first face-to-face meeting came after the draft was over and he and his parents visited Atlanta.

"I shook hands with him, but I think I was more interested in making a good impression on the guys I met in the clubhouse, Dale Murphy and Ron Gant," recalled Chipper.

Three years later, Jones earned his opportunity. And it just so happened that the GM who drafted him was now the manager of the team. Jones got his first taste of the big leagues as a September callup in 1993. He spent 1994 on the disabled list after tearing his left ACL in a spring training game, but he was back on the Atlanta Braves in 1995, coming in second in NL Rookie of the Year balloting.

Jones is quick to point out that he and Cox have had their share of disagreements.

"Don't think we haven't butted heads from time to time," he said. "There have been things we haven't seen eye to eye on, instances where he hasn't liked what I said in the paper and he doesn't agree with that."

Cox tends to keep to the high road, rarely finding fault with a player publicly.

"I've been called into the principal's office a few times in my career, and it's not enjoyable," said Jones. "I respect the fact that he's trying to keep things in house, not airing dirty laundry which is understandable. And he understands that I wear my emotions on my sleeve and will say things that I might regret saying the next morning."

Chipper recalled an incident in San Diego when something he said was taken out of context.

"It was probably my second or third year in the league," Jones said. "A guy was asking me who the leaders on the club are. I said we have a lot of really good players in here. Everyone has the same standing in the clubhouse. Whoever takes the mound that night could be the leader."

But that wasn't what the headlines said.

"The headlines read: Jones says the Braves have no leaders. I mean to tell you (Bobby) ripped into me something fierce," recalled Jones. "He had his say, and I explained what I had said and that I would never disrespect the rest of the guys on our team by saying, specifically, there are no leaders. I learned a lesson about talking with the media, to make sure that my point was properly relayed and to not air laundry in the clubhouse."

Jones has often described Cox as a father or grandfather figure to his players.

"In this day and age, when people don't stay in one place very long, I'd venture a guess to say there's no one else like this. A guy watches a kid in high school, drafts him as the team's general manager, becomes the (field) manager, and 17 years later they're still player and coach. Suffice to say, I feel fortunate to have a guy like Bobby in my corner for so long."

MOST HRs UNDER ONE MANAGER

1.	Mark McGwire/Tony La Russa	497
2.	Babe Ruth/Miller Huggins	467
3.	Barry Bonds/Dusty Baker	437
4.	**Chipper Jones/Bobby Cox**	**436**

MOST HRs TO BEGIN CAREER UNDER ONE MANAGER

1.	**Chipper Jones/Bobby Cox**	**436**

ALLISON SHEFFEFS

Cox is the only manager Chipper Jones has played for in the majors, an unusual relationship that has resulted in some unique home run accomplishments (above charts).

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BY BILL BALLEW

THIS YEAR'S CLASS OF DRAFT PICKS ALREADY LOOKING IMPRESSIVE

IF THE FIRST FEW MONTHS following the 2010 draft prove to be an indication of things to come, the Braves' haul could rank among the best in team history. That's the opinion of Rome manager Randy Ingle, who has been impressed with what he's seen from three of Atlanta's top six picks and the reports he's read on many of the other selections.

"We've received a new group of guys since the All-Star break, and these guys are a pleasure to be around," said Ingle, who is in his 32nd season as a member of the Atlanta organization. "They're baseball players who know how to play the game and play it extremely hard until the last out is recorded. I think we had a terrific draft this year. We went after a few more position players and college guys. I believe we'll have some steals come out of this class."

Ingle was referring primarily to three players who have joined Rome's starting lineup. Outfielder Todd Cunningham was the first to arrive on June 20. Second baseman Phil Gosselin came less than a week later, and third baseman Joe Leonard got there July 15 after a 10-game stint at Danville. With all three players coming from the Division I collegiate ranks and getting their first tastes of pro ball at the same time, the three can be found together more often than not, both on the field and off.

BILL BALLEW

Three draft picks from this June - (L-R) outfielder Todd Cunningham, third baseman Joe Leonard and second baseman Phil Gosselin - reflect the Braves' emphasis on developing position players.

"It's been a lot of fun, and we kind of stick together," Leonard said. "It's been a grind, playing every day. Todd, Phil and I have been playing since February, so it can be tough getting your body ready to go every day."

Added Gosselin, "It's definitely helped, especially early on, having these guys around. We're all going through the same thing, going through this for the first time while trying to figure out the ins and outs of how to do what we need to get done."

Cunningham was drafted in the second round out of Jacksonville State after proving to be the best all-around player in the Ohio Valley Conference the past two years. A switch-hitter with good speed, Cunningham has shown to be a steady fielding outfielder who is also capable of playing third base, the position he played in school. He posted three 3-hit games in his first 41.

"I think it's been good for the team, bringing in fresh legs and a little bit of extra energy," Cunningham said. "Personally, I didn't know anyone when I arrived, and I knew there were a lot of expectations of me. It's a completely different lifestyle than what I experienced in college, but I've really enjoyed it so far. I'm learning new things every day, so I'm excited about it and trying my best to roll with everything."

Gosselin has been undergoing a change as well, moving from the outfield as a collegian to second base with the Braves. He spent three years at the University of Virginia and emerged as a hitting catalyst during his junior season for a team that was ranked first in the nation for most of the year. He led the team with 22 doubles and 11 home runs while ranking second with a .382 batting average and 61 RBIs. The Braves liked Gosselin's athleticism and bat speed, which attracted attention as a sophomore when he hit a first-inning home run off Stephen Strasburg, now a Washington Nationals phenom, in the Irvine Regional of the NCAA Tournament.

"If you had told me at the beginning of this year that I'd be a fifth-round draft pick, I'd have taken it in a heartbeat," Gosselin said. "The first thing I heard from my college coaches was that I was going to a great organization that had the right people in the right places to make me better. So far, that's definitely been the case."

A third-round pick, Leonard went 4-for-9 at the plate in his first two games with Rome, including home runs in both games. He blossomed at Pitt this past spring by hitting .452 with eight home runs and 60 RBIs in 199 at-bats. At 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds, Leonard has shown a good feel for hitting and should develop more power as he adjusts to wooden bats.

"I really like the way he carries himself, the professionalism he exudes," said Greenville (Boston affiliate) manager Billy McMillon. "He has great size at third base and a very strong arm. He looks like he has good athleticism. You don't see a lot of guys like that at third base."

Rome also has a few other new players, including 27th-round pick Willie Kempf and shortstop Edward Salcedo, who signed with Atlanta this past spring out of the Dominican Republic. Salcedo joined the R-Braves in early July after playing in the Dominican Summer League. He and Gosselin have formed a solid doubleplay combination, even though they lack professional experience and come from diverse backgrounds.

"He's a talented young guy, and there's some growing pains with both of us," Gosselin said. "We're learning and trying to get better together. But the entire experience has been great so far. For me, this is definitely a dream come true."

GWINNETT
TRIPLE A

FIRST BASEMAN Freddie Freeman started slowly at the plate this season before hurting his right knee in early June. After a short visit to the disabled list, Freeman hit for average and power over the next two months. He batted .333 with six homers and 22 RBIs in 27 games in July before opening August with 11 hits in his first 24 at-bats (.458) and eight RBIs in six games.

Freeman, who could make his major league debut when rosters are expanded in September, leads the organization in home runs and RBIs and ranks among the leaders in batting average. He also was named the best fielding first baseman in the International League in a managers' poll conducted by Baseball America...

Mike Minor allowed only seven earned runs in his six starts with the G-Braves after being promoted from Mississippi at the end of June and prior to making his major league debut on Aug. 9. The Braves' first-round draft pick in 2009 ranked fifth in the minor leagues with 144 strikeouts at the time of his promotion to Atlanta. In six starts at Gwinnett, the Vanderbilt product went 4-1 with a 1.89 ERA and impressed manager **Dave Brundage** with his intelligence on the mound. He allowed only 19 hits in 33 1/3 innings, resulting in a .171 opponents' batting average, and struck out 37...

Brandon Beachy was promoted to Gwinnett in late July and earned a save in his Triple-A debut on July 27. The righthander moved into the rotation in early August and allowed only three earned runs in his first two starts (13 innings) and picked up the win against Toledo on Aug. 2. Beachy was selected to play in the Southern League All-Star Game and was named the league's pitcher of the week for July 5-11 prior to joining the G-Braves...

Left-handed pitcher **Scott Diamond** was promoted to Gwinnett in mid-July after going 4-6 with a 3.52 ERA at Mississippi. Diamond gave up six hits and six earned runs in his first start, on July 16, but rebounded to allow only two earned runs over his next three outings, a span of 19 innings...

Lee Hyde made his Triple-A debut the same day as Diamond after he too received a promotion to Mississippi. The former Georgia Tech pitcher with the sidearm delivery has emerged as one of the premier relievers in the organization. Hyde gave up five earned runs in his first 10 outings, a span of 10 1/3 innings, but three came in one outing on July 29...

Atlanta worked out a trade for **Wilkin Rodriguez** on Aug. 1 after the Tigers designated the outfielder for assignment. A solid defensive centerfielder who tends to pile up strikeouts while trying to hit for power, Rodriguez has been deemed one of Detroit's prospects for several years. The Braves will send Detroit a mid-level minor leaguer or cash to complete the transaction. To make room for Rodriguez, the Braves released veteran outfielder **Willy Taveras**, who was signed as a free agent in early July and hit .119 in 17 games with Gwinnett...

The Braves requested waivers on **Chris Resop** on Aug. 2 after he was sent to the minors for a rehab stint. Resop, who was called up to Atlanta on June 15, pitched only two innings with Atlanta before succumbing to an oblique injury. Prior to his promotion, Resop was one of the top pitchers in the International League, posting a 1.84 ERA in 73 1/3 innings He was claimed by Pittsburgh...

Ryne Reynoso, who went 2-7 with a 5.40 ERA in 14 games (10 starts) at Gwinnett, was released by the organization in mid-July. He signed shortly thereafter to pitch at Double-A Portland for the Red Sox...

Atlanta sold designated hitter **Mitch Jones** to Pittsburgh on July 30. Jones, who ranks fourth in the minors in career home runs among active players, led the Braves' organization with 18 homers at the time of the deal... A broken foot suffered on July 4 sidelined outfielder **Josh Anderson** through the first week of August... Pitcher **Mariano Gomez** had been out of action since June 28 with a strained left elbow.

TOP PROSPECTS BY POSITION

RHP	**JULIO TEHERAN** Age 19, Mississippi
LHP	**BRETT OBERHOLTZER** 21, Myrtle Beach
RP	**CRAIG KIMBREL** 22, Gwinnett
C	**CHRISTIAN BETHANCOURT** 19, Rome
1B	**FREDDIE FREEMAN** 20, Gwinnett
2B	**PHIL GOSSELIN** 21, Rome
3B	**JOE LEONARD** 22, Rome
SS	**EDWARD SALCEDO** 19, Rome
LF	**TODD CUNNINGHAM** 21, Rome
CF	**HECTOR GARCIA** 18, Dominican Summer League
RF	**ROBERT HEFFLINGER** 20, Rome

MISSISSIPPI
DOUBLE A

SOUTHERN LEAGUE competition proved to be little problem shortly after **Julio Teheran** and **Tyrelle Harris** were promoted from Myrtle Beach. In his second start for Mississippi, on Aug. 2, Teheran struck out seven batters and allowed no hits over 5 2/3 innings against Mobile. Harris, who was making his debut at the Double-A level, took over and completed the no-hitter by striking out six of the 12 batters he faced, walking one. The no-hitter is the second in M-Braves history, following Tommy Hanson's gem on June 25, 2008...

Considered by managers as the top prospect in the South Atlantic and Carolina leagues this season, Teheran may receive similar accolades in the Southern. After giving up five earned runs and six hits in 4 2/3 in his SL debut on July 28, the righthander from Colombia did not allow a run and surrendered only three hits while striking out 14 in 11 2/3 innings over his next two starts...

Randall Delgado, who was promoted to Mississippi with Teheran on July 23, suffered the loss in each of his first three Double-A starts. The righthander surrendered only 13 hits in 14 innings with 16 strikeouts, but was uncharacteristically inconsistent with his command, issuing nine walks. Despite his early struggles, Delgado is considered one of the organization's top prospects with his solid repertoire that includes a heavy, explosive fastball and a great demeanor on the mound...

The Braves are being cautious with **Kyle Cofield**, who was sidelined from May 8-July 2 with a forearm strain. A 10-game winner at Mississippi in 2009, Cofield worked four shutout innings against Mobile on Aug. 5 for his longest stint since returning to action. Cofield has outstanding stuff but has strug-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

gled throughout his career with command of his pitches...

Outfielder **Willie Cabrera** is in the midst of his best season in the minors, which led to a three-game stint at Gwinnett during the first three days of August. Currently in his fifth season in the Atlanta organization and his second full year at the Double-A level, Cabrera has ranked among the top two in batting average among Braves farmhands throughout the season. A .402 hitter in May, he batted .356 with 11 doubles, three homers and 17 RBIs in 25 games in July and was named the SL hitter of the week for July 5-11...

The M-Braves received outfielder **Yasser Gomez** on July 22. Capable of playing left field and center field but possessing limited power, Gomez was a member of Cuba's silver medal-winning Olympic team in 2000. He was hitting .297 in his first 14 games and had 11 walks against only one strikeout in his first 37 at-bats. To make room for Gomez on the Mississippi roster, the Braves released outfielder **Concepcion Rodriguez**, who batted only .220 in 64 games...

Reliever **Brett Butts** is expected to be out until the middle of the 2011 season after undergoing successful ligament replacement surgery on July 9. Butts has pitched well the past three seasons, including a 7-3 record and a 2.58 ERA in 53 games at Mississippi in 2009 prior to posting a 1.52 ERA in 15 outings this year...

The Braves sent outfielder **Jordan Schafer** to Mississippi after he batted .201 in 52 games at Gwinnett. Schafer missed the first month of the season while recovering from wrist surgery he underwent in September 2009. He displayed minimal power against International League pitchers while striking out 47 times in 189 at-bats. Schafer went 7-for-31 (.226) in nine games with the M-Braves before being placed on the disabled list with lingering nerve pain in his wrist...

Cody Johnson was sent to Myrtle Beach on Aug. 9 in hopes of regaining his stroke at the plate. The Braves' first-round draft pick in 2006 was mired in a 1-for-28 slump at the time of his demotion after missing more than three weeks in July with a hamstring injury. One of the premier power hitters in the minors, Johnson had 10 homers this season with the M-Braves, but had not hit one since May 15...

Infielder **Alejandro Machado**, who signed with the Braves in mid-May, was released July 28 after hitting .275 in 49 games with Mississippi.

MYRTLE BEACH
ADVANCED A

PAUL CLEMENS was still looking for his first victory of the season with the Pelicans through the first week of August, but that fact should take nothing away from his performance since the All-Star break in mid-June. Clemens had a 2.15 ERA since the break compared to 4.96 during the first half. He did not allow an earned run in 15 straight innings, from July 15-Aug. 3, and owned a 1.32 ERA in three spot starts. He struck out a career-best nine in five innings during a start versus Kinston on Aug. 3...

Zeke Spruill was pitching well upon his return after missing nearly three months with a broken hand he suffered following a rough second start of the season in April. In his first seven games, the second-round draft pick in 2008 posted a 2-1 record and a 2.05 ERA while displaying outstanding command of his sinker. His best effort thus far came on Aug. 7 when he allowed only one run and five hits over seven innings in the first game of a doubleheader against Frederick to post only the second complete game of the season for the Pelicans...

ROGER M. WOOD

Rome's change-of-speed artist Chris Masters has been among the ERA leaders all season in the South Atlantic League.

Chad Rodgers recorded his first save since 2007 on July 30. Rodgers has made a smooth adjustment from the starting rotation to the bullpen this season. The third-round draft pick from 2006 did not allow an earned run in 10 straight games, from June 10-Aug. 9, although he spent 23 days of that span on the disabled list with foot abrasions and a mild concussion...

Infielder **Dan Nelson** posted a 14-game hitting streak, the longest by a Pelican since 2008, by going 21-for-56 (.389) from July 21-Aug. 4. First baseman **Mike Jones** put together a 10-game string from July 23-Aug. 2 while going 15-for-42 (.357)...

Cory Rasmus was promoted to Myrtle Beach on July 23 after going 6-6 with a 3.14 ERA and earning all-star honors at Rome. Atlanta's supplemental first-round draft pick in 2006 is pitching in his first full professional season after missing nearly two years due to shoulder surgery. In his second start in the Carolina League, on July 31 against Winston-Salem, Rasmus allowed one run and five hits over six innings in a no-decision...

J.J. Hoover had a sensational July by going 5-0 with a 1.22 ERA in six starts. The righthander lowered his ERA from 4.35 at the start of the month to 3.35. Through Aug. 9, Hoover was tied for second in the league with nine wins and ranked third with 102 strikeouts and sixth in ERA...

Infielder **Jordan Kreke**, who led Rome with 14 doubles and ranked second with 32 RBIs, was promoted to the Pelicans on July 13. Kreke responded by going 3-for-4 in his Carolina League debut on July 14 and later had back-to-back 3-hit games, on July 25-26...

The Braves are hopeful that **Arodys Vizcaino** will be able to return to the mound during Fall Instructional League. The hard-throwing righthander made impressive improvements with his work ethic and overall feel for pitching at Rome. He made three starts at Myrtle Beach before a ligament strain in his elbow sidelined him after his June 25 outing...

Pitcher **Cole Rohrbough** continues to battle tendinitis in his left shoulder. He has not pitched since he made four starts with the Pelicans in April and has spent most of his time rehabbing in Orlando. There is no indication of structural damage, although Rohrbough missed some time in 2009 while battling a similar ailment in his rotator cuff...

Outfielder **Adam Milligan** is making progress following rotator cuff surgery on June 29. After putting together one of the best individual seasons in the organization in 2009, Milligan struggled with discomfort in the shoulder prior to being sidelined in early May. He had the procedure after rest did not prove to be beneficial and is expect-

ed to be ready to play by spring training...

First baseman **Gerry Rodriguez** was reinstated by the Braves after serving a 50-game suspension for violating Major League Baseball's banned substance policy. Rodriguez struggled upon his return by batting just .233 (14-for-60) with a home run and eight RBIs in 18 games. Shortstop **Amadeo Zazueta** and second baseman **Yoel Campusano**, who were suspended by MLB at the same time and for the same offense, were released by the organization on July 19 after being reinstated...

Second baseman **Travis Jones**, who was demoted from Mississippi to Myrtle Beach on May 25, was released by the organization on July 13 after hitting .225 in 43 games with the Pelicans...

Pelicans chairman **Chuck Greenberg** and his group of investors, including Hall of Famer **Nolan Ryan**, were the highest bidders in the auction for the Texas Rangers on Aug. 5. Once the deal is approved by Major League Baseball, Greenberg will assume the title of managing partner and CEO for the American League club. There have been suggestions that Greenberg will make Myrtle Beach an affiliate of the Rangers after this season. The Braves have been affiliated with Myrtle Beach since the franchise moved there from Durham, N.C., in 1999.

ROME
CLASS A

CHRIS MASTERS finally won his second game of the season on July 29 despite ranking among the South Atlantic League leaders in ERA for most of the season. Masters won his next outing on Aug. 3, as well. The left-handed pitcher from Western Carolina University is not overpowering, but his ability to add and subtract speed to all of his pitches makes life difficult for hitters...

Catcher **Christian Bethancourt** has made significant progress during the second half of the season and is drawing praise for his overall fielding, as well as his productivity at the plate. Bethancourt has outstanding athleticism that allows him to catch and throw as well as any young catcher in the game...

Centerfielder **Kyle Rose** returned to the lineup July 24 after missing more than three weeks with a hamstring injury. Considered to be the fastest player in the organization, Rose aggravated the leg after playing two games and had not returned to the action through Aug. 8. Taking his roster spot was outfielder **Bobby Rauh**, Atlanta's 29th-round pick in 2009 who

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DOWN ON THE FARM

BRETT DEVALL

IT'S A GREAT FEELING TO BE HEALTHY AGAIN

LIFE HAS BEEN A LOT DIFFERENT this season compared to 2009. Last year it was frustrating to go out there and not be able to pitch the way I knew I was capable of pitching. My arm was never 100 percent, although there wasn't a specific problem with it.

I wound up battling myself as well as all the situations that were taking place on the field. Every time I pitched, I experienced tightness in my forearm and discomfort in my elbow.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Brett DeVall was the Braves' first draft pick in 2008 and the 40th overall selection. A product of Niceville High School in Florida, the 6-foot-4, 215-pound lefthander worked in only four games in 2008 due to stiffness in his forearm. In 2009, he started 10 games at Class-A Rome in May and June before the problem arose again, leading to arthroscopic surgery last fall. Now, nearly a year removed from the procedure, DeVall is making steady progress at Rome. Through his first 18 starts, he was 7-8 with a 4.28 ERA.

As it turned out, there were some bone chips on the back of my elbow, as well as a bone spur right next to the ligament. The doctors went in and shaved some of that off and cleaned it up last fall.

The entire situation was definitely tough, and the Braves didn't know exactly what to do, because the MRI could only show so much. The doctors couldn't tell if the bone spur was in the ligament, which would have meant having to do Tommy John surgery and missing about a year while I rehabbed.

After considering all of the options, we made the decision to go in and have it scoped to see if the spur could be removed, which proved to be the case. I believe everything was handled very well, particularly by the organization.

> "NOW THAT WE'RE TOWARD THE END OF THE SEASON, MY ARM FEELS BETTER THAN IT DID AT ANY TIME LAST YEAR."

This year was kind of the same situation while coming off the surgery. I went out in spring training expecting to be fine, but I had a few bumps in the road, especially early on.

Now that we're toward the end of the season, my arm feels better than it did at any time last year, as well as early this year and even in the middle of this season. I'm really happy with where things are right now.

Since I didn't have my other pitches last year during my 10 starts at Rome, I was able to develop the feel for my changeup. Now that my arm feels good, I've been able to throw my changeup in key situations while improving the overall command of my fastball.

Just having the opportunity to get back in the swing of things has been a big key for me, and I've been able to regain most of my velocity. But I learned last year when my arm was hurting that if I could command my fastball and mix in a changeup, everything else would be easier.

Right now, I'm working mainly on the consistency of all my pitches. In fact, I'm working hard to be consistent with everything I do on a day in and day out basis. Pitching is all about rhythm, especially for a starter, and I'm trying to maintain that with my throwing, my running and everything else.

Keeping my body in good physical condition allows me to repeat my mechanics, which helps all facets of my game remain in place. A big key is keeping my legs in shape so that when this time of the season comes around, I still feel good and am able to pitch the way I know I can.

When you're not feeling well and things are happening behind you on the field, it's a constant mental drain. It can really wear you out, particularly when you start wondering if things are going to work out in your career.

Now, regardless of what happens over the course of a game, I'm just happy that my arm is healthy and I'm able to take the ball every fifth day.

FARM STATISTICS

THROUGH AUGUST 8

GWINNETT 57-58

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE TRIPLE A | COOLRAY FIELD (678) 277-0300

BATTERS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Bolivar, Luis (INF)	.229	36	105	12	24	5	1	1	8	4	28	6
Boscan, J.C. (C)	.251	53	175	16	44	7	0	4	18	17	40	1
Canizares, Barbaro (1B)	.324	97	318	36	103	22	1	7	58	25	44	2
Clevlen, Brent (OF)	.243	32	107	14	26	7	0	1	17	19	35	3
Freeman, Freddie (1B)	.306	102	376	56	115	27	2	15	71	36	69	4
Hernandez, Diory (INF)	.319	30	116	13	37	7	2	0	17	4	21	3
Hicks, Brandon (SS)	.211	71	242	25	51	9	1	6	19	20	66	10
McLouth, Nate (OF)	.250	16	64	11	16	0	0	4	7	8	8	3
Ramirez, Wilkin (OF)	.214	46	173	19	37	5	2	6	17	10	67	7
Romero, Alex (OF)	.190	18	58	2	11	1	0	1	2	3	10	1
Sammons, Clint (C)	.163	66	209	18	34	6	0	3	17	23	47	2
Schafer, Jordan (OF)	.201	52	189	16	38	5	1	1	8	14	47	9
Thurston, Joe (INF)	.253	103	359	35	91	16	3	8	50	25	48	7
Timmons, Wes (3B)	.294	105	357	64	105	21	1	6	43	55	31	19
Young, Matt (OF/2B)	.293	106	379	67	111	26	5	2	28	42	41	22

PITCHERS	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OBA
Beachy, Brandon	1-0	3.18	3	2	1	17.0	13	6	6	3	16	.213
Broadway, Michael	1-0	2.16	8	0	0	8.1	5	2	2	4	6	.185
Diamond, Scott	1-0	3.27	4	4	0	22.0	25	9	8	6	9	.313
Dunn, Michael	2-0	1.05	33	0	7	42.2	26	7	5	22	56	.174
Gearrin, Cory	1-4	3.96	41	0	0	63.2	56	29	28	28	54	.243
Gomez, Mariano	3-2	2.89	28	0	1	43.2	38	17	14	17	27	.245
Gustafson, Tim	7-5	5.87	13	12	0	61.1	74	42	40	39	31	.308
Hyde, Lee	1-1	4.35	10	0	0	10.1	11	5	5	5	11	.297
Kimbrel, Craig	2-1	1.64	36	0	17	44.0	22	9	8	28	62	.149
Lyman, Jeff	0-0	4.72	21	0	0	34.1	32	24	18	23	26	.250
Marek, Stephen	1-0	1.42	37	0	6	38.0	33	9	6	13	42	.231
Minor, Mike	4-1	1.89	6	6	0	33.1	19	7	7	12	37	.171
Nunez, Vladimir	0-1	3.63	26	1	0	44.2	47	21	18	18	36	.273
Ortegano, Jose	3-8	6.29	15	14	0	73.0	89	56	51	29	65	.303
Parr, James	2-5	5.16	9	9	0	45.1	54	26	26	17	28	.305

MISSISSIPPI 50-62

SOUTHERN LEAGUE DOUBLE A | TRUSTMARK PARK (601) 664-7600

BATTERS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Bolivar, Luis (INF)	.284	44	148	21	42	6	2	3	16	12	40	5
Cabrera, Willie (OF)	.312	93	349	46	109	34	1	5	54	28	36	13
Daniel, Michael (OF)	.263	53	160	16	42	8	1	2	14	19	28	11
Duncan, Eric (INF)	.277	96	350	45	97	17	3	7	51	28	81	5
Gomez, Mauro (1B)	.272	108	397	53	108	35	2	11	62	39	100	0
Gonzalez, Juan (SS)	.206	34	102	7	21	4	0	0	12	14	26	0
Gress, Randy (SS)	.250	39	96	13	24	4	0	2	6	11	26	0
Johnson, Cody (OF)	.189	75	233	26	44	6	0	10	31	25	114	9
Linares, Donell (3B)	.253	98	380	47	96	18	1	10	41	11	40	2
Machado, Alejandro (INF)	.275	49	138	24	38	7	0	2	19	24	21	2
Mercado, Orlando (C)	.281	72	224	27	63	7	0	0	18	36	34	3
Richardson, Antoan (OF)	.295	56	207	43	61	6	1	0	14	28	32	18
Rodriguez, Concepcion (OF)	.220	64	173	17	38	7	2	0	24	20	36	3
Romero, Alex (OF)	.279	43	165	25	46	8	1	1	19	20	14	1
Schafer, Jordan (OF)	.229	10	35	4	8	2	0	0	4	4	7	1
Sucre, Jesus (C)	.300	32	120	17	36	10	1	2	11	1	16	0

PITCHERS	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OBA
Abreu, Juan	4-2	3.53	30	0	5	35.2	36	16	14	19	36	.261
Beachy, Brandon	3-1	1.47	27	6	1	73.2	53	17	12	22	100	.200
Broadway, Michael	1-1	3.45	23	0	1	31.1	30	12	12	16	38	.252
Butts, Brett	0-1	1.52	15	0	3	23.2	18	5	4	6	28	.212
Chapman, Jaye	1-4	6.02	30	1	0	40.1	52	33	27	24	45	.308
Cofield, Kyle	1-3	5.01	12	9	0	41.1	45	24	23	20	28	.274
Cordier, Erik	9-7	3.88	21	19	0	120.2	107	57	52	64	100	.243
Delgado, Randall	0-3	4.50	3	3	0	14.0	13	10	7	9	16	.245
Diamond, Scott	4-6	3.52	17	17	0	102.1	113	45	40	39	90	.288
Gustafson, Tim	4-2	3.99	10	6	0	38.1	38	23	17	20	23	.266
Hyde, Lee	2-3	2.95	29	0	8	39.2	42	20	13	12	35	.271
Palica, Thomas	3-1	7.31	25	0	1	32.0	39	27	26	16	45	.298
Pruneda, Benino	0-3	3.86	18	0	0	23.1	18	12	10	20	31	.212
Sullivan, Richard	4-9	5.47	28	13	0	102.0	124	74	62	36	75	.303
Teheran, Julio	1-1	2.76	3	3	0	16.1	9	5	5	10	17	.164

MYRTLE BEACH 47-67

CAROLINA LEAGUE ADVANCED A | BB&T COASTAL FIELD (843) 918-6002

BATTERS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Avila, Gerardo (1B)	.230	41	152	20	35	6	1	7	22	17	49	1
Barba, Ryan (SS)	.170	36	112	5	19	7	0	0	5	4	17	3
Campusano, Yoel (2B)	.192	36	130	14	25	5	0	3	11	19	27	2
Culver, Calvin (OF)	.217	39	138	8	30	3	0	0	10	7	22	0
Harrilchak, Cory (OF)	.283	49	198	24	56	14	4	1	22	17	32	3
Jones, Michael (1B)	.269	71	271	25	73	12	0	4	38	23	61	1
Jones, Mycal (SS)	.274	51	208	35	57	15	0	3	15	17	48	13
Jones, Travis (2B)	.225	43	151	25	34	8	0	6	23	23	39	3
Kennelly, Mathew (C)	.212	62	212	20	45	8	1	2	17	24	34	1
Miles, Cole (OF)	.246	95	334	47	82	5	8	0	24	34	68	27
Nelson, Dan (INF)	.280	86	318	55	89	19	0	10	53	39	54	6
Rodriguez, Gerardo (OF/1B)	.235	59	226	35	53	11	3	9	33	14	82	5
Sime, Samuel (INF)	.258	75	267	22	69	10	1	5	29	18	55	6
Sucre, Jesus (C)	.220	48	191	14	42	9	0	5	22	7	26	1
Sumoza, Luis (OF)	.223	62	211	18	47	6	2	2	17	20	56	6
Ware, L.V. (OF)	.266	57	173	31	46	6	3	3	17	14	49	9

PITCHERS	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OBA
Avilan, Luis	2-2	3.15	23	0	6	34.1	27	13	12	10	30	.221
Chapman, Jaye	0-1	5.68	10	0	2	12.2	10	8	8	7	21	.208
Clemens, Paul	0-2	3.02	22	4	2	50.2	54	29	17	20	44	.269
Crim, Matthew	7-9	4.80	24	18	0	123.2	143	81	66	47	73	.291
Delgado, Randall	4-7	2.76	20	20	0	117.1	89	46	36	32	120	.210
Francis, David	2-3	4.31	21	0	0	39.2	49	22	19	22	29	.304
Harris, Tyrelle	1-2	3.71	17	0	1	26.2	23	11	11	12	37	.232
Hoover, J.J.	9-6	3.51	22	22	0	120.2	117	54	47	33	102	.249
Oberholtzer, Brett	4-5	4.59	17	13	2	80.1	95	43	41	14	64	.300
Ortegano, Jose	2-4	5.14	7	7	0	28.0	41	20	16	7	14	.342
Paulino, Angelo	2-4	2.84	34	0	2	63.1	65	23	20	23	56	.272
Pruneda, Benino	1-1	2.70	20	0	5	30.0	25	14	9	14	44	.223
Rasmus, Cory	0-1	2.81	3	3	0	16.0	18	6	5	8	8	.286
Rodgers, Chad	1-7	4.19	26	0	1	38.2	35	22	18	20	31	.246
Spruill, Zeke	2-2	4.67	9	8	0	34.2	42	21	18	3	23	.294
Teheran, Julio	4-4	2.98	10	10	0	63.1	56	22	21	13	76	.233

ROME 51-62

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE CLASS A | STATE MUTUAL STADIUM (706) 368-9388

BATTERS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Bethancourt, Christian (C)	.255	84	321	25	82	16	1	3	31	11	44	2
Cunningham, Todd (OF)	.268	42	153	26	41	7	2	1	14	11	20	5
Curley, Chris (INF)	.217	48	161	18	35	4	2	2	18	7	28	0
Flores, Ramon (OF)	.217	39	138	14	30	6	4	1	13	3	24	4
Gosselin, Philip (2B)	.329	41	152	19	50	7	3	1	16	17	30	6
Hanson, Jake (OF)	.232	67	237	25	55	13	3	3	26	13	85	8
Harrilchak, Cory (OF)	.306	60	219	31	67	10	3	1	22	24	24	18
Hefflinger, Robert (OF/1B)	.250	57	212	22	53	16	0	4	43	18	69	1
Kreke, Jordan (3B/SS)	.248	75	282	35	70	14	1	0	32	24	50	7
Rose, Kyle (OF)	.277	70	256	43	71	5	3	0	15	21	52	19
Salcedo, Edward (SS)	.200	31	110	14	22	5	4	1	10	6	30	4
Schlehuber, Braeden (C)	.221	48	154	17	34	6	0	1	15	6	20	2
Spanjer-Furstenburg, Riaan (1B)	.291	48	182	21	53	11	1	2	21	16	30	0
Ware, L.V. (OF)	.222	38	126	20	28	4	1	1	11	8	27	16
Weaver, Matthew (INF/OF)	.240	90	304	25	73	15	3	2	28	19	81	3
Whitmer, Jace (1B/C)	.290	33	124	13	36	8	1	2	17	1	13	1

PITCHERS	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OBA
Avilan, Luis	2-1	2.61	10	0	0	20.2	15	8	6	9	21	.203
Berryhill, Thomas	3-1	3.80	31	0	5	45.0	51	29	19	15	30	.276
Brewer, Caleb	3-2	4.65	9	9	0	40.2	42	24	21	26	24	.273
Clemens, Paul	2-0	1.42	8	0	1	19.0	11	5	3	8	16	.164
DeVall, Brett	7-8	4.28	18	18	0	103.0	127	67	49	27	68	.305
Estevez, Wilton	1-1	4.62	19	0	0	25.1	30	22	13	28	19	.303
Francis, David	0-0	4.91	8	0	3	14.2	18	12	8	5	7	.321
Hale, David	4-8	4.20	22	7	4	75.0	83	43	35	37	55	.282
Kent, Steven	1-0	1.27	14	0	1	21.1	16	4	3	6	34	.190
Lopez, Robinson	3-7	4.38	22	14	0	88.1	80	49	43	37	67	.239
Lorick, Jeffrey	3-5	1.91	24	3	4	42.1	34	20	9	20	37	.219
Masters, Chris	3-6	3.60	22	21	0	110.0	100	56	44	40	100	.242
Rasmus, Cory	6-6	3.14	20	12	1	83.0	77	39	29	29	72	.242
Surinach, Julio	0-2	3.53	24	0	2	43.1	37	22	17	26	34	.234
Vizcaino, Arodys	9-3	2.34	12	12	0	69.1	60	24	18	9	66	.226
Wilson, Andrew	0-0	2.61	24	0	1	41.1	33	12	12	16	29	.223

DANVILLE 24-23

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE
ROOKIE ADVANCED

LEGION FIELD
(434) 797-3792

BATTERS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Dalfonso, Jakob (1B/OF)	.370	32	92	18	34	5	0	1	10	6	12	2
Delgado, Ryan (C)	.263	31	99	14	26	9	0	3	13	5	16	0
Falcon, Daniel (OF)	.206	21	68	7	14	3	1	3	11	1	15	1
Fleming, Kenny (OF)	.185	35	108	13	20	4	2	0	8	6	27	6
Flores, Ramon (OF)	.333	8	36	6	12	2	0	0	4	1	8	1
Frierson, Jarred (OF/2B)	.267	23	60	8	16	1	2	0	2	7	14	1
Gattis, Evan (C)	.309	40	149	20	46	9	0	2	21	6	26	0
Kleinknecht, Barrett (INF)	.292	33	137	16	40	11	0	4	25	2	15	6
Mowry, Jason (OF)	.226	39	137	14	31	6	1	1	12	13	21	2
Odreman, Alberto (1B)	.208	20	53	5	11	3	0	1	5	7	14	0
Rauh, Bobby (OF)	.321	20	56	15	18	3	0	2	8	8	13	3
Reyes, Elmer (2B)	.286	35	126	14	36	7	0	2	13	4	22	2
Rohm, David (OF)	.319	17	69	10	22	6	0	0	9	3	9	2
Simmons, Andrelton (SS)	.239	42	163	22	39	8	0	1	15	10	10	11
Terdoslavich, Joseph (1B)	.280	43	164	22	46	9	2	0	17	14	24	2
Whitmer, Jace (C)	.254	18	59	6	15	4	0	0	9	5	8	0

PITCHERS	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OBA
Acord, Dalton	1-1	3.24	10	0	3	16.2	14	6	6	13	27	.222
Farrell, Kyle	3-2	4.50	9	5	1	40.0	41	21	20	6	25	.258
Filak, David	0-1	2.50	6	4	0	18.0	12	5	5	9	19	.194
Hayes, Jamie	0-0	6.91	8	0	0	14.1	17	11	11	7	13	.293
Jurik, Dan	0-1	3.00	2	2	0	12.0	8	4	4	3	8	.190
Kempf, Willie	2-0	1.91	5	4	0	28.1	17	6	6	2	28	.177
La Point, Lucas	2-2	5.13	7	5	0	33.1	38	22	19	5	27	.288
Lewis, Matthew	0-2	10.80	9	0	0	13.1	19	25	16	18	10	.328
Mertins, Kyle	0-1	3.86	7	0	4	11.2	7	6	5	5	5	.189
Mora, Edigson	0-2	4.58	9	0	1	19.2	18	12	10	12	19	.243
Northcraft, Aaron	5-1	2.89	9	8	0	46.2	40	17	15	5	34	.233
Pacheco, Ronan	2-4	6.62	10	7	2	35.1	48	31	26	11	41	.316
Perez, Carlos	2-0	1.13	6	6	0	32.0	20	8	4	14	27	.185
Stovall, Tyler	1-0	3.26	11	0	0	19.1	15	13	7	18	19	.221
Suschak, Matthew	2-3	6.75	11	0	3	21.1	28	19	16	11	17	.326
Weber, Ryan	3-2	2.81	8	6	0	41.2	32	14	13	3	36	.212

GULF COAST 21-21

GULF COAST LEAGUE
ROOKIE

CHAMPION STADIUM AT DISNEY
(407) 939-2301

BATTERS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
Beckwith, William (1B)	.254	16	59	6	15	3	0	2	14	9	12	3
Brownsten, Cory (C)	.301	26	73	14	22	3	2	2	11	13	7	1
Cadette, Victor (OF)	.200	33	110	12	22	5	0	0	6	8	21	4
De Los Santos, Fernando (INF)	.252	37	111	17	28	6	2	0	6	10	29	2
De Los Santos, Ramon (C/1B)	.164	24	67	9	11	3	0	2	6	3	16	1
Drury, Brandon (3B)	.213	38	150	15	32	5	1	2	11	6	43	2
Falcon, Daniel (1B/OF)	.342	19	76	9	26	4	0	2	6	2	12	6
Fleming, Kurt (OF)	.223	30	112	12	25	0	2	0	5	7	14	3
Franco, Carlos (3B)	.056	12	36	4	2	1	0	0	2	4	13	1
Lipka, Matt (SS)	.310	35	142	23	44	6	2	1	22	11	16	15
Marin, Ivan (2B)	.300	19	40	6	12	1	0	1	7	5	9	3
Query, Ryan (C)	.205	15	44	6	9	1	0	3	10	0	7	0
Rivera, Wilson (OF)	.176	37	119	10	21	4	2	1	12	13	30	4
Rohm, David (OF)	.320	19	75	10	24	3	1	1	15	8	7	1
Rowland, Brendan (C)	.154	9	26	2	4	1	0	0	2	3	6	0
Sanchez, Edison (1B/3B)	.305	19	59	9	18	5	0	1	8	12	15	0

PITCHERS	W-L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OBA
Alvarez, Danilo	0-1	2.65	11	0	0	17.0	10	5	5	5	15	.167
Burns, Jonathan	1-3	4.91	13	0	1	18.1	23	10	10	3	19	.299
Castillo, Eduardo	1-1	2.74	4	4	0	23.0	22	8	7	4	9	.262
De Luna, Luis	0-0	4.50	6	3	1	18.0	26	11	9	5	13	.333
Foster, Stephen	2-0	1.10	10	0	0	16.1	12	2	2	5	11	.214
Gaxiola, Amilcar	0-3	4.95	11	0	0	20.0	18	13	11	5	23	.240
Hess, Tyler	2-2	3.00	8	2	1	24.0	15	9	8	7	22	.179
Jurik, Dan	3-0	2.20	7	5	0	28.2	23	10	7	5	27	.219
Kempf, Willie	2-0	.00	3	1	0	11.0	6	0	0	3	12	.158
Marshall, Ian	3-2	5.35	9	6	0	35.1	48	26	21	8	22	.329
Perez, Williams	0-3	4.78	9	8	0	43.1	49	25	23	6	31	.293
Russ, Nate	0-0	4.22	10	0	3	10.2	12	7	5	4	10	.279
Sekiguchi, Shohei	1-1	3.77	8	0	0	14.1	17	8	6	3	10	.304
Silva, Ernesto	0-1	6.94	5	2	0	11.2	21	12	9	7	9	.396
Winnie, Dan	4-1	4.71	10	7	0	28.2	34	18	15	10	23	.293
Yamarin, Yoshinori	2-1	3.86	11	0	0	18.2	15	8	8	9	15	.224

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

was hitting .321 with two home runs and eight RBIs at Danville...

The R-Braves were hoping to get outfielder **Robby Hefflinger** back by the middle of August. Hefflinger was the team's top hitter prior to suffering a hairline fracture in his thumb on July 4. The corner outfielder, who joined Rome in late April from extended spring training, led the club with 43 RBIs at the time of the injury...

Steven Kent is making a nice recovery after missing all of the 2009 season due to shoulder surgery. The left-handed reliever from Australia allowed a run in only two of his first 14 appearances, covering 21 1/3 innings. He had a 1.27 ERA and limited opponents to a .190 batting average while posting 34 strikeouts versus only six walks through Aug. 8...

Matt Fouch, Atlanta's 34th-round draft pick this June out of Army, was called to active duty in July. Fouch appeared in six games between Danville and Rome, striking out 10 and walking one. He is not expected to return to baseball this year...

Right-handed pitcher **Caleb Brewer** was placed on the disabled list in late July with a right lower leg stress fracture. Brewer missed all of the 2008 season due to a hip injury.

DANVILLE
ROOKIE ADVANCED

CORNER INFIELDER Jakob Dalfonso has been as hot as the weather at the plate. An 18th-round draft pick in 2009 out of Middle Georgia College, Dalfonso owned a .371 batting average in his first 31 games, including a .429 (18-for-42) at home...

First baseman **Joseph Terdoslavich**, Atlanta's sixth-round pick in June out of Long Beach State, hit safely in nine of 10 games, from July 26-Aug. 6. He had multi-hit efforts in the last four games of that streak, during which he went 9-for-17 with three doubles and four RBIs.

GULF COAST
ROOKIE

SHORTSTOP Matt Lipka, Atlanta's first pick in the 2010 draft, started his professional career on a strong note. Through Aug. 9, Lipka ranked second in the Gulf Coast League with 15 stolen bases, fourth with 44 hits, and seventh with a .310 batting average. He also paced the Braves with 22 RBIs and six doubles. Scouts have been impressed with Lipka's athleticism, including his outstanding speed, as well as his line-drive stroke and strong hands at the plate...

Pitcher **Stephen Foster** has also performed well early in his professional career. Drafted in the 39th round in June out of Lewis-Clark State in Idaho, the lefthander allowed only two runs in his first 16 1/3 innings, covering 10 outings. He also picked up his first two victories as a pro in back-to-back appearances, on July 12 and 16.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE

The Braves signed **Oriel Caicedo** out of Panama in early July and have the pitcher working in the DSL. The young lefthander has a fastball in the 90-mph range but has struggled with control. The 6-foot-1 Caicedo allowed only 11 hits in his first 17 innings but issued 17 walks and hit five batters and threw six wild pitches...

Atlanta also signed catcher **Carlos Sanchez** out of Panama in early July. The 16-year-old received a signing bonus close to what Caicedo's - a reported $100,000. Sanchez is considered to have good fielding tools and a strong arm. He had yet to make his professional debut at press time.

2010 SCHEDULE

AUG. / SEPT.

HOME AWAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 1:30 FLA FSS	30 7:00 NYM PTV	31 7:00 NYM PTV	1 7:00 NYM PTV/ESPN	2 7:00 NYM PTV	3 7:00 FLA SS	4 7:00 FLA SS
5 12:00 FLA FSS	6 1:30 PIT SS	7 7:00 PIT SS	8 7:00 PIT SS	9 7:00 STL PTV	10 7:30 STL PTV	11 4:00 STL FOX
12 1:30 STL FSS	13 7:00 WAS SS	14 7:00 WAS SS	15 12:00 WAS SS	16	17 7:00 NYM SS	18 4:00 NYM FOX
19 1:00 NYM FSS	20 7:00 PHI SS	21 7:00 PHI SS	22 7:00 PHI SS	23	24 7:00 WAS SS	25 1:00 WAS SS
26 1:30 WAS FSS	27 7:00 FLA SS	28 7:00 FLA SS	29 4:30 FLA SS	30		

ALL GAMES ON ROCK 100.5, 680 THE FAN, AND RADIO NETWORK AFFILIATES.

ROCK 100.5 ATLANTA'S ROCK STATION

SPORTS RADIO 680 The Fan

FSS FS SOUTH

PTV Peachtree TV

SS SPORTSOUTH

FOX FOX

ESPN ESPN

OCT. / NOV.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:30 PHI SS	2 7:00 PHI SS
3 1:30 PHI FSS	4	5	6 TBD NLDS TBS	7 TBD NLDS TBS	8 TBD NLDS TBS	9 TBD NLDS TBS
10 TBD NLDS TBS	11 TBD NLDS TBS	12 TBD NLDS TBS	13 TBD NLDS TBS	14	15 TBD NLCS FOX	16 TBD NLCS FOX
17 TBD NLCS FOX	28 TBD NLCS FOX	19 TBD NLCS FOX	20 TBD NLCS FOX	21 TBD NLCS FOX	22 TBD NLCS FOX	23 TBD NLCS FOX
24 TBD NLCS FOX	25	26	27 TBD WS FOX	28 TBD WS FOX	29	30 TBD WS FOX
31 TBD WS FOX	1 TBD WS* FOX	2	3 TBD WS* FOX	4 TBD WS* FOX		

POST-SEASON DATES ARE TENTATIVE, UNOFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE
*If Necessary

NL HOME GAME AL HOME GAME

ROSTER

PITCHERS (12)

38	MIKE DUNN
43	KYLE FARNSWORTH
48	TOMMY HANSON
15	TIM HUDSON
49	JAIR JURRJENS
32	DEREK LOWE
50	CRISTHIAN MARTINEZ
56	MIKE MINOR
58	PETER MOYLAN
40	TAKASHI SAITO
39	JONNY VENTERS
13	BILLY WAGNER

CATCHERS (2)

16	BRIAN MCCANN
8	DAVID ROSS

INFIELDERS (6)

26	BROOKS CONRAD
25	TROY GLAUS
2	ALEX GONZALEZ
19	DIORY HERNANDEZ
4	OMAR INFANTE
10	CHIPPER JONES

OUTFIELDERS (5)

28	RICK ANKIEL
53	MELKY CABRERA
23	MATT DIAZ
22	JASON HEYWARD
20	ERIC HINSKE

15-DAY DISABLED LIST (3)

54	KRIS MEDLEN (RHP)
34	ERIC O'FLAHERTY (LHP)
14	MARTIN PRADO (INF)

AS OF AUG. 10

INDIVIDUAL STATS

THROUGH AUGUST 11

BATTERS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	SLG	E
INFANTE	.330	86	270	34	89	11	0	3	29	109	14	40	4	4	.360	.404	11
PRADO	.315	101	438	75	138	29	3	13	43	212	30	62	4	3	.357	.484	6
ROSS	.290	39	93	11	27	8	1	1	20	40	13	21	0	1	.383	.430	
McCANN	.273	99	333	47	91	19	0	17	62	161	54	71	4	1	.384	.483	10
CABRERA	.267	111	341	37	91	19	3	4	30	128	31	44	6	1	.328	.375	4
RIGHT	.266		109		29	9	1	1	7	43	11	12			.339	.394	
LEFT	.267		232		62	10	2	3	23	85	20	32			.323	.366	
JONES	.265	95	317	47	84	21	0	10	46	135	61	47	5	0	.381	.426	10
RIGHT	.245		110		27	5	0	4	9	44	21	14			.366	.400	
LEFT	.275		207		57	16	0	6	37	91	40	33			.388	.440	
HEYWARD	.262	95	344	55	90	23	3	12	51	155	57	87	8	3	.377	.451	4
HINSKE	.258	95	225	31	58	19	1	9	41	106	27	59	0	0	.339	.471	1
*GONZALEZ	.256	25	90	12	23	5	1	3	10	39	5	16	0	1	.320	.433	6
GLAUS	.241	110	377	49	91	16	0	15	65	152	60	88	0	0	.348	.403	8
DIAZ	.240	56	150	17	36	12	1	5	21	65	8	34	3	1	.288	.433	1
CONRAD	.238	73	101	21	24	8	0	6	23	50	10	32	4	0	.313	.495	2
RIGHT	.227		22		5	2	0	0	3	7	3	7			.318	.320	
LEFT	.241		79		19	6	0	6	20	43	7	25			.310	.544	
*ANKIEL	.139	11	36	4	5	2	0	0	3	7	6	16	0	1	.262	.194	1
HERNANDEZ	.000	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	.000	.000	0
ATLANTA	.257	114	3,851	520	990	222	14	101	493	1,543	461	799	48	23	.340	.401	89
OPPONENTS	.243	114	3,773	432	918	180	19	85	409	1,391	360	823	72	32	.314	.369	71

PINCH-HITTERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI) Heyward (.667-2-0-2), Jones (.429-3-0-3), Cabrera (.300-3-0-0), Hinske (.296-8-2-7), McCann (.286-2-1-5), Infante (.250-3-0-1), Conrad (.244-10-3-10), Diaz (.167-3-0-1), Glaus (.000-0-0-0), Ross (.000-0-0-0), Hernandez (.000-0-0-0). TEAM (.257-37-6-29).

PITCHERS (AVG-H-HR-RBI) Hudson (.236-13-0-3), Medlen (.185-5-0-2), Hanson (.136-6-0-4), Lowe (.108-4-0-3), Jurrjens (.040-1-0-1), Martinez (.000-0-0-0), Saito (.000-0-0-0), Venters (.000-0-0-0), Dunn (.000-0-0-0), Minor (.000-0-0-0). STAFF (.148-29-0-13).

KEY

AVG-Batting average, SLG-Slugging percentage, OBP-On-base percentage, G-Games, AB-At-bats, R-Runs, H-Hits, 2B-Doubles, 3B-Triples, HR-Home runs, RBI-Runs batted in, TB-Total bases, BB-Walks, SO-Strikeouts, SB-Stolen bases, CS-Caught stealing, E-Errors, W-L-Wins-Losses, ERA-Earned run average, GS-Starts, GF-Games finished, SV-Saves, IP-Innings pitched, HB-Hit batters, WP-Wild pitches, OBA-Opponents' batting average.

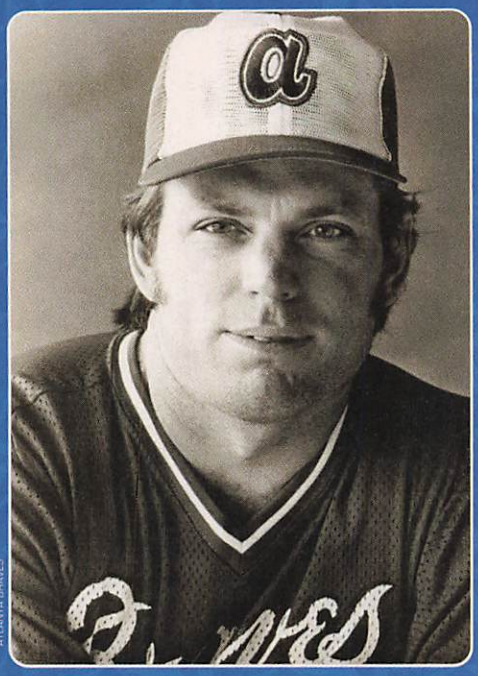
PITCHERS	W-L	ERA	G	GS	GF	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO	WP	OBA
DUNN	1-0	0.00	9	0	2	0	6.2	4	0	0	0	0	9	6	0	.174
VENTERS	4-0	1.07	53	0	13	1	58.2	33	11	7	1	4	26	62	2	.167
WAGNER	6-2	1.78	52	0	47	28	50.2	30	12	10	5	3	15	71	2	.169
HUDSON	13-5	2.24	23	23	0	0	156.2	120	40	39	10	6	53	83	3	.217
O'FLAHERTY	3-1	2.30	41	0	6	0	31.1	25	10	8	1	1	13	27	2	.221
MOYLAN	3-2	3.06	61	0	4	1	47	43	17	16	4	2	27	38	2	.254
SAITO	1-3	3.07	45	0	11	1	44	35	16	15	4	0	13	55	2	.212
HANSON	8-8	3.51	24	24	0	0	141	134	63	55	8	13	42	134	3	.251
MEDLEN	6-2	3.68	31	14	5	0	107.2	108	48	44	13	3	21	83	1	.267
JURRJENS	4-4	4.16	13	13	0	0	75.2	68	38	35	7	1	27	53	2	.238
LOWE	11-9	4.40	24	24	0	0	141	145	71	69	13	4	52	89	3	.271
MINOR	0-0	4.50	1	1	0	0	6	5	4	3	0	1	1	5	0	.208
MARTINEZ	0-0	4.63	8	0	4	0	11.2	13	6	6	2	0	1	10	1	.283
*FARNSWORTH	0-1	16.88	4	0	1	0	2.2	4	5	5	0	0	4	2	1	.400
ATLANTA	66-48	3.50	114	114	112	31	1,014.1	918	432	395	85	40	360	823	28	.243
OPPONENTS	48-66	4.16	114	114	110	26	1,007	990	520	465	101	37	461	799	40	.257

* With Atlanta only

GAME BY GAME

GAME	DATE	OPP	H/A	W-L	SCORE	W/L PITCHER	ATL HRs	REC	POS	GB
1	4/5	CHC	H	W	16-5	Lowe (1-0)	Heyward (1), McCann (1)	1-0	T-1	—
2	4/7	CHC	H	W	3-2	Moylan (1-0)	Jones (1)	2-0	T-1	—
3	4/8	CHC	H	L	0-2	Hanson (0-1)	—	2-1	T-1	—
4	4/9	SF	A	L	4-5 (13)	Medlen (0-1)	—	2-2	3	-1
5	4/10	SF	A	W	7-2	Lowe (2-0)	Heyward (2)	3-2	2	-1
6	4/11	SF	A	L	3-6	Kawakami (0-1)	McCann (2), Heyward (3)	3-3	3	-2
7	4/12	SD	A	L	2-17	Jurrjens (0-1)	—	3-4	3	-3
8	4/14	SD	A	W	6-1	Hanson (1-1)	Glaus (1)	4-4	3	-3
9	4/15	SD	A	W	6-2	Hudson (1-0)	Prado (1)	5-4	T-2	-2
10	4/16	COL	H	W	9-5	Lowe (3-0)	Jones (2)	6-4	2	-2
11	4/17	COL	H	L	0-4	Kawakami (0-2)	--	6-5	T-3	-2
12	4/18	COL	H	W	4-3	O'Flaherty (1-0)	--	7-5	3	-1
13	4/20	PHI	H	W	4-3 (10)	Wagner (1-0)	Glaus (2), Heyward (4), McLouth (1)	8-5	1	T-1
14	4/21	PHI	H	L	0-2	Hudson (1-1)	--	8-6	2	-1
15	4/22	PHI	H	L	3-8	Lowe (3-1)	--	8-7	3	-2
16	4/23	NYM	A	L	2-5	Kawakami (0-3)	--	8-8	4	-2
17	4/24	NYM	A	L	1-3	Jurrjens (0-2)	--	8-9	5	-3
18	4/25	NYM	A	L	0-1	Hanson (1-2)	--	8-10	5	-3
19	4/26	STL	A	L	3-4	Saito (0-1)	--	8-11	5	-3
20	4/27	STL	A	L	4-5	Lowe (3-2)	--	8-12	5	-3 ½
21	4/28	STL	A	L	0-6	Kawakami (0-4)	--	8-13	5	-4 ½
22	4/29	STL	A	L	4-10	Jurrjens (0-3)	Heyward (5)	8-14	5	-4 ½
23	4/30	HOU	H	W	4-2	Hanson (2-2)	McLouth (2), Heyward (6)	9-14	5	-5
24	5/1	HOU	H	W	10-1	Hudson (2-1)	Heyward (7)	10-14	5	-4
25	5/2	HOU	H	W	7-1	Lowe (4-2)	--	11-14	5	-3 ½
26	5/4	WAS	A	L	3-6	Kawakami (0-5)	Heyward (8)	11-15	5	-4
27	5/5	WAS	A	W	7-6 (10)	Medlen (1-1)	Infante (1)	12-15	5	-4
28	5/6	WAS	A	L	2-3 (10)	O'Flaherty (1-1)	--	12-16	5	-5
29	5/7	PHI	A	L	0-7	Lowe (4-3)	--	12-17	5	-6
30	5/8	PHI	A	W	4-1	O'Flaherty (2-1)	--	13-17	5	-5
31	5/9	PHI	A	L	3-5	Kawakami (0-6)	--	13-18	5	-6
32	5/10	MIL	A	W	8-2	Hanson (3-2)	Glaus (3), Prado (2)	14-18	5	-6
33	5/11	MIL	A	W	11-3	Hudson (3-1)	Glaus (4), Conrad (1)	15-18	5	-5 ½
34	5/12	MIL	A	W	9-2	Lowe (5-3)	Conrad (2)	16-18	T-4	-4 ½
35	5/14	ARZ	H	W	6-5	Wagner (2-0)	McCann (3), McLouth (3)	17-18	5	-4 ½
36	5/15	ARZ	H	L	1-11	Hanson (3-3)	--	17-19	5	-5 ½
37	5/16	ARZ	H	W	13-1	Hudson (4-1)	Prado 2 (4), Glaus (5), Hinske (1)	18-19	4	-5 ½
38	5/17	NYM	H	L	2-3	Lowe (5-4)	Hinske (2)	18-20	5	-6 ½
39	5/18	NYM	H	W	3-2	Wagner (3-0)	Glaus (6)	19-20	4	-5 ½
40	5/19	CIN	H	W	5-4	Wagner (4-0)	McCann (4)	20-20	4	-4 ½
41	5/20	CIN	H	W	10-9	Kimbrel (1-0)	Conrad (3)	21-20	3	-4 ½
42	5/21	PIT	A	W	7-0	Hudson (5-1)	Heyward (9), McCann (5)	22-20	2	-4 ½
43	5/22	PIT	A	W	4-2	Lowe (6-4)	Cabrera (1), Hinske (3)	23-20	2	-3 ½
44	5/23	PIT	A	L	2-3 (10)	Saito (0-2)	Hinske (4)	23-21	2	-3 ½
45	5/25	FLA	A	L	4-6	Kawakami (0-7)	--	23-22	3	-3 ½
46	5/26	FLA	A	W	7-3	Hanson (4-3)	--	24-22	2	-2 ½
47	5/27	FLA	A	W	8-3	Moylan (2-0)	--	25-22	2	-1 ½
48	5/28	PIT	H	W	7-3	Lowe (7-4)	--	26-22	2	-1 ½
49	5/29	PIT	H	W	6-3	Medlen (2-1)	Heyward (10)	27-22	2	-1 ½
50	5/30	PIT	H	W	5-2	Saito (1-2)	Glaus (7)	28-22	2	-1/2
51	5/31	PHI	H	W	9-3	Hanson (5-3)	Jones (3), Glaus (8)	29-22	1	+1/2
52	6/1	PHI	H	W	7-3	Hudson (6-1)	Glaus (9)	30-22	1	+1 ½
53	6/2	PHI	H	W	2-1	Lowe (8-4)	--	31-22	1	+2 ½
54	6/3	LAD	A	W	4-3	Medlen (3-1)	Glaus (10)	32-22	1	+3
55	6/4	LAD	A	L	4-5	Kawakami (0-8)	--	32-23	1	+2
56	6/5	LAD	A	W	9-3	Hanson (6-3)	Glaus (11)	33-23	1	+2

GAME	DATE	OPP	H/A	W-L	SCORE	W/L PITCHER	ATL HRs	REC	POS	GB
57	6/6	LAD	A	L	4-5 (10)	Chavez (0-1)	Prado (5), McCann (6)	33-24	1	+2
58	6/7	ARZ	A	L	4-7	Lowe (8-5)	--	33-25	1	+2
59	6/8	ARZ	A	W	7-5	Venters (1-0)	--	34-25	1	+2
60	6/9	ARZ	A	L	1-2	Moylan (2-1)	--	34-26	1	+1 ½
61	6/10	ARZ	A	W	11-7	Moylan (3-1)	--	35-26	1	+2 ½
62	6/11	MIN	A	L	1-2	Hudson (6-2)	--	35-27	1	+1 ½
63	6/12	MIN	A	W	3-2	Venters (2-0)	Cabrera (2)	36-27	1	+1 ½
64	6/13	MIN	A	W	7-3	Medlen (4-1)	Prado (6), Glaus 2 (13)	37-27	1	+1 ½
65	6/15	TAM	H	L	4-10	Kawakami (0-9)	Jones (4)	37-28	1	+1/2
66	6/16	TAM	H	W	6-2	Hanson (7-3)	Hinske (5)	38-28	1	+1/2
67	6/17	TAM	H	W	3-1	Hudson (7-2)	Heyward (12)	39-28	1	+1/2
68	6/18	KC	H	W	6-4	Lowe (9-5)	--	40-28	1	+1/2
69	6/19	KC	H	W	5-4	Wagner (5-0)	McCann (7), Glaus (14)	41-28	1	+1 ½
70	6/20	KC	H	W	8-5	Kimbrel (2-0)	--	42-28	1	+2 ½
71	6/22	CWS	A	L	6-9	Hanson (7-4)	Prado (7), McCann (8)	42-29	1	+1 ½
72	6/23	CWS	A	L	2-4	Hudson (7-3)	--	42-30	1	+1/2
73	6/24	CWS	A	L	0-2	Saito (1-3)	--	42-31	1	+1/2
74	6/25	DET	H	W	3-1	Medlen (5-1)	McCann (9), Conrad (4)	43-31	1	+1/2
75	6/26	DET	H	W	4-3	Kawakami (1-9)	Jones (5)	44-31	1	+1 ½
76	6/27	DET	H	L	4-10	Hanson (7-5)	--	44-32	1	+1/2
77	6/28	WAS	H	W	5-0	Hudson (8-3)	--	45-32	1	+1 ½
78	6/29	WAS	H	L	2-7	Lowe (9-6)	--	45-33	1	+1 ½
79	6/30	WAS	H	W	4-1	Jurrjens (1-3)	--	46-33	1	+1 ½
80	7/2	FLA	H	W	4-3 (11)	Venters (3-0)	--	47-33	1	+2
81	7/3	FLA	H	W	4-1	Hanson (8-5)	--	48-33	1	+3
82	7/4	FLA	H	L	2-3	Hudson (8-4)	McCann (10)	48-34	1	+2
83	7/5	PHI	A	L	1-3	Lowe (9-7)	Jones (6)	48-35	1	+2
84	7/6	PHI	A	W	6-3 (11)	Chavez (1-1)	Prado (8), Hinske (6)	49-35	1	+2
85	7/7	PHI	A	W	7-5	Medlen (6-1)	Prado 2 (10), Diaz (1)	50-35	1	+3
86	7/9	NYM	A	W	4-2	O'Flaherty (3-1)	Cabrera (3), Infante (2)	51-35	1	+4
87	7/10	NYM	A	W	4-0	Hudson (9-4)	--	52-35	1	+5
88	7/11	NYM	A	L	0-3	Lowe (9-8)	--	52-36	1	+4
89	7/15	MIL	H	W	2-1	Jurrjens (2-3)	Prado (11), Jones (7)	53-36	1	+5
90	7/16	MIL	H	L	3-9	Hanson (8-6)	--	53-37	1	+5
91	7/17	MIL	H	L	3-6	Hudson (9-5)	Diaz (2), Hinske (7)	53-38	1	+4 ½
92	7/18	MIL	H	W	11-6	Lowe (10-8)	McCann (11), Diaz (3)	54-38	1	+5
93	7/20	SD	H	W	4-1	Jurrjens (3-3)	Diaz (4)	55-38	1	+6 ½
94	7/21	SD	H	L	4-6 (12)	Medlen (6-2)	McCann (12)	55-39	1	+6 ½
95	7/22	SD	H	W	8-0	Hudson (10-5)	--	56-39	1	+7
96	7/23	FLA	A	L	6-7	Wagner (5-1)	Prado (12), McCann (13)	56-40	1	+6
97	7/24	FLA	A	W	10-5	Chavez (2-1)	Prado (13), Conrad (5)	57-40	1	+6
98	7/25	FLA	A	L	4-5 (11)	Chavez (2-2)	Hinske (8)	57-41	1	+5
99	7/27	WAS	A	L	0-3	Hanson (8-7)	--	57-42	1	+3 ½
100	7/28	WAS	A	W	1-3	Hudson (11-5)	--	58-42	1	+3 ½
101	7/29	WAS	A	L	3-5	Lowe (10-9)	Diaz (5)	58-43	1	+2 ½
102	7/30	CIN	A	W	6-4 (10)	Chavez (3-2)	McCann (14)	59-43	1	+3 ½
103	7/31	CIN	A	L	2-5	Jurrjens (3-4)	--	59-44	1	+3 ½
104	8/1	CIN	A	L	1-2	Hanson (8-8)	Gonzalez (18)	59-45	1	+2 ½
105	8/2	NYM	H	W	4-1	Hudson (12-5)	Jones (8)	60-45	1	+3
106	8/3	NYM	H	L	2-3	Wagner (5-2)	--	60-46	1	+2
107	8/4	NYM	H	W	8-3	Dunn (1-0)	Jones (9), McCann (15), Cabrera (4)	61-46	1	+2
108	8/5	SF	H	W	3-2	Jurrjens (4-4)	Gonzalez (19), Hinske (9)	62-46	1	+2
109	8/6	SF	H	L	2-3 (11)	Moylan (3-2)	Gonzalez (20), Jones (10)	62-47	1	+1
110	8/7	SF	H	W	3-0	Hudson (13-5)	--	63-47	1	+2
111	8/8	SF	H	W	6-3	Lowe (11-9)	Ross (1), Infante (3)	64-47	1	+2
112	8/9	HOU	A	L	4-10	Farnsworth (3-1)	Heyward (12), McCann (16)	64-48	1	+1 ½
113	8/10	HOU	A	W	4-2	Venters (4-0)	Conrad (6), Glaus (15)	65-48	1	+2 ½
114	8/11	HOU	A	W	8-2 (10)	Wagner (6-2)	McCann (17)	66-48	1	+2 ½



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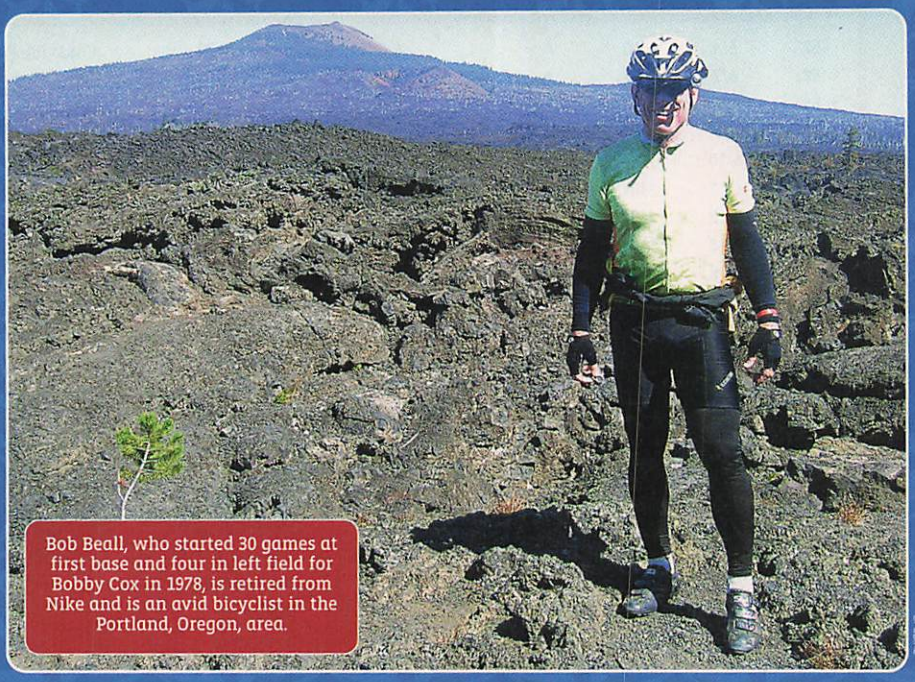

Bob Beall, who started 30 games at first base and four in left field for Bobby Cox in 1978, is retired from Nike and is an avid bicyclist in the Portland, Oregon, area.

SHEDD

COMMUNITY MAN

ONE OF BOBBY COX'S ORIGINAL PLAYERS, BOB BEALL STAYS ACTIVE IN HIS TOWN'S AFFAIRS

BY BRIAN KNAPP

ONLY 42 MEN can say they played for Bobby Cox during his first season (1978) as a major league manager. As Cox nears the end of his incomparable career, Bob Beall finds himself forever linked to that select group.

Beall, 62, has retired from a successful career with Nike and focused his time and efforts on public education in Hillsboro, Ore., the Portland suburb in which he was raised. Since 2003, he has served as a board member of the Hillsboro Schools Foundation, which raises money from private sources to fund grants in the public school system. Beall's ex-wife, Nancy, taught and administered in the Hillsboro system for 25 years.

"They just kind of recruited me," he said. "We had gone to one of their auctions, and that was my first contact with them. You meet people, and I eventually met the people who recruited me to the board."

A volunteer-driven nonprofit organization established in 2000, the foundation (hsfonline.org) benefits some 30 schools, from the elementary level through high school.

"Just being around educators as an adult in the community, I valued that education and felt like the program really helped make the Hillsboro system special," Beall said. "We fund things that are kind of outside the realm of the normal state funding, things schools can't always afford to put into their budget and things that generate interest among students and make school more motivational."

Beall meets once a month with other board members and also immerses himself in an annual planning session. For the last four years, he has worked as co-chair on the foundation's auction committee.

"I get to spend all year raising money," Beall said. "That's the fun part. Every spring, we have a process where teachers and principals can apply for grants, and we assess which of those we think are the top ones. You're raising money, and then you give it away. The basic board work is not much, but it does take a decent amount of time."

Having graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in mathematics, Beall spent nearly three decades with Nike, where he worked as the supply chain and field operations manager and later as the director of planning for Jordan Apparel. Occasionally, he rubbed shoulders with the sporting world's most distinguished icons.

"Essentially, we planned and executed purchases of apparel products from factories that we contracted," Beall said. "That was the biggest portion of my work at Nike. My last seven years were in the Jordan division, so I crossed paths with Michael a couple of times. You'd see people in the hallways, too. It's not unusual for Nike to bring in top athletes for sales meetings."

Beall's position was eliminated as part of a company-wide reorganization a year ago, ushering him into early retirement. He has no regrets.

"I can look back on 27 years of really great opportunities. It was wonderful," Beall said. "I was already on the verge of retiring, and I

talked to my financial advisors and asked, 'How soon could I retire? I'm just getting kind of tired.' After looking around the job market for a while, I said, 'You know, I'm ready for this.' I was able to leave Nike pretty well under what could have been unpleasant circumstances. I understood what the company was doing."

His connection to professional sports was a natural bridge to Nike. Originally a 28th-round draft choice (1970) of the Philadelphia Phillies, Beall spent parts of four seasons in the major leagues with the Braves and Pirates, serving primarily as a pinch-hitter and late-inning defensive replacement at first base. Three of those four years came in an Atlanta uniform, when he collected 54 hits in 145 games and walked more times (45) than he struck out (40) for the Braves.

Traded by the Phillies to Atlanta for infielder Gil Garrido prior to the 1974 season, Beall was called up for a 20-game "cup of coffee" with the Braves in 1975. He emerged again three years later, when he made the major league club out of spring training and appeared in a career-high 108 games under Cox, then a rookie manager.

"It was always life on the edge for me," said Beall, who compiled nearly 1,000 hits and a .287 batting average in the minor leagues. "I was a first baseman who didn't hit home runs, so I had to do all the other things to try and find a job. When I did get to the major leagues, I tried to appreciate every day of it."

Dealt to Pittsburgh in July 1980 for a minor leaguer, Beall got just three at-bats with the Pirates and then walked away from the game after spending the 1981 season at Triple-A Portland. To this day, he raves about Cox's managerial approach.

"I loved playing for Bobby, because I always felt like I understood what my role was," said Beall, who hit his only career home run for the Braves in 1978. "I knew how he was going to use me, so there wasn't any mystery about that. I thought he was great to play for."

An avid bike rider, Beall remains physically fit. He also has become active with the Multiple Sclerosis Society, because his younger sister suffers from the autoimmune disease.

"Every year, they have a fund-raising bicycle ride, and I'm right in the middle of that," Beall said. "Riders solicit donations from family and friends and then do the bike ride. I'll ride 100 miles on a Saturday and 30, 50 or whatever it comes out to on Sunday."

Beall made just five errors in 148 career games for a .987 fielding percentage. He had a .231 lifetime batting average.

BY STEVE FALL

TOP PROSPECT CARDS ARE HOT PROPERTIES

EVEN THOUGH Julio Teheran was pitching at the Class-A level (Rome and then Myrtle Beach) early this year before being promoted to Double-A Mississippi, he had already caught the eye of baseball card collectors.

Teheran is the Braves' hottest prospect – both on the field and in terms of his minor league baseball cards. The young righthander had pitched extremely well, even though he is just 19 years old (won't be 20 until Jan. 27). His Bowman Chrome Red Refractor autograph cards (R) – of which only five were printed – cost from $700 to $800. His autographed Bowman Chrome Gold Refractors, which are not quite as rare, go for $200-$250.

"At first, I was surprised at what this card was selling for. But when I looked up his stats and saw his strikeout numbers, it made more sense." said Jeff Clayton of Jeff's Sports Cards in Topeka, Kansas, who was selling one of Teheran's Bowman Chrome Gold Refractor autograph cards on eBay.

Eric Cuomo, whose eBay store Cardboardbeautys specializes in prospect and autographed rookie cards, says age is one of the biggest factors when it comes to minor league cards.

"If Teheran was 23 years old, he'd be selling for a quarter of what he's selling for right now," said Cuomo. "But because he's so young and so advanced, people are thinking he can come up at 20 and be the next Felix Hernandez."

Minor league baseball cards provide a glimpse of the future or a look at the past. They also expand the selection for fans that collect cards of current Braves. Chipper Jones has cards all the way back to 1990, the year Atlanta drafted him. Jones' 1991 Upper Deck rookie card sells for about $15.

Serious card collectors buy, sell, and speculate on top minor leaguers, almost like they're playing the stock market. Cuomo points out that the anticipation of a prospect may make his cards more popular before they reach the major leagues than afterwards.

"Tommy Hanson sold incredibly well in the minors," said Cuomo, who has collected minor league cards since 2003. "You look at him now, he's selling well still, but not as much because people are expecting him to go out there and strike out 10 and throw complete game shutouts."

The history and success of an organization impacts the value of a prospect's cards. Cuomo cited several examples of players traded from the Braves system whose cards dropped in value, while just the opposite occurred with players acquired by the organization. This happened with Jair Jurrjens a few years back.

"He didn't sell that great in Detroit," said Cuomo. "I can recall that I had some of his Gold Refractors – they weren't autographed – they were selling for about $60-$70 with the Tigers. They went up to about $150-$175 when he joined the Braves (Oct. '07)."

Compared to major league cards, minor league cards are relatively new.

Topps released its Pro Debut series this past March. The 220-card set includes top Braves prospects like Mike Minor, Craig Kimbrel and Christian Bethancourt.

ALUMNI NOTES

Dale Murphy (OF/C/1B, 1976-90) was a guest of honor at the American Meat Institute's annual Hot Dog lunch at the Rayburn House Office Building Courtyard in Washington, D.C. July 21. Celebrating American icons baseball and hot dogs, former major leaguers Lee Smith and Ron Guidry also attended and signed autographs with Murphy. Over 1,500 people, including numerous politicians, attended and 4,000 wieners, corn dogs, brats and sausages - that would be three times taller than the Washington Monument if laid end-to-end - were served. The event has been staged since the '70s, with baseball being incorporated in 1991. **Phil Niekro** (RHP, 1964-83, '87) was a guest last year.

Dale Murphy signed autographs and greeted guests at the American Meat Institute's annual Hot Dog lunch in Washington, D.C.

Hank Aaron (OF/1B, 1954-74) was honored, along with boxer Muhammad Ali and actor Denzel Washington, Aug. 12 in Los Angeles at the star-studded, 10th annual Harold Pump Foundation charity event. Tickets were $500 apiece. A golf tournament was held in conjunction with the banquet, and the entry fee was $500 per person. Proceeds benefit cancer treatment. The foundation is operated by David and Dana Pump, two influential figures in youth and college basketball. Those in attendance at the banquet included **David Justice** (OF/1B, 1989-96) and **Deion Sanders** (OF, 1991-94).

Milwaukee Brewers announcer **Bob Uecker** (C, 1962-63, '67) returned to the broadcast booth July 23 to do the play-by-play for the team after having heart surgery on April 30.

Ryan Church (OF, 2009) was traded from Pittsburgh to Arizona.

Octavio Dotel (RHP, 2007) was traded from Pittsburgh to the Dodgers.

Will Ohman (LHP, 2008) was traded from Baltimore to Florida.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia (C, 2007) was traded from Texas to Boston.

Garret Anderson was designated for assignment by the Dodgers Aug. 8.

Kansas City signed manager **Ned Yost** (Coach, 1991-2002) to a two-year contract extension through 2012.

The Phillies fired hitting coach **Milt Thompson** (OF, 1984-85) July 23.

Anthony Lerew (RHP, 2005-07) was designated for assignment by Kansas City.

John Smoltz (RHP, 1988-99, 2001-08) finished in four-way tie for second at the American Century Championship at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course in Stateline, Nev. The 54-hole celebrity tournament featured 82 sports and entertainment stars July 16-18.

The Minnesota Twins honored the late **Joe Niekro** (RHP, 1973-74) July 31 with "Brain Aneurysm Awareness Day" at Target Field. Niekro, who pitched for the Twins in 1987-88, passed away from a sudden brain aneurysm in 2006. Today, his legacy lives on through the Joe Niekro Foundation.

Hank Aaron (OF/1B, 1954-74) was a special guest July 28 at a fundraiser at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., for Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., while the Braves were playing the Nats.

Bob Hartman (LHP, 1959) died June 16 at age 72 in Kenosha, Wisc.

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

1ST	RICO CARTY (71)
	CRAIG SKOK (63)
3RD	DAVE CAMPBELL (59)
	TOM THOBE (41)
	CHAD FOX (40)
4TH	DOYLE ALEXANDER (60)
	JORDAN SCHAFER (24)
6TH	MIKE THOMPSON (61)
	GREG OLSON (50)
	FRANK BROOKS (32)
7TH	SERGIO VALDEZ (46)
	DARREN BRAGG (41)
8TH	LOU SLEATER (84)
	STEVE HARGAN (68)
9TH	MIKE HAMPTON (38)
	KYLE DAVIES (27)
10TH	PRESTON HANNA (56)
	NICK GREEN (32)
	DANYS BAEZ (33)
11TH	MATT DESALVO (30)
12TH	STAN LOPATA (85)
	TRENCH DAVIS (50)
13TH	MIKE FISCHLIN (55)
	DENNY NEAGLE (42)
14TH	JOE WINKELSAS (37)
	GEORGE LOMBARD (35)
	BRANDON HICKS (25)
15TH	GAYLORD PERRY (72)
	DON COLLINS (58)
16TH	ROGER MORET (61)
17TH	ORLANDO CEPEDA (73)
	BOBBY WINE (72)
18TH	BRENT LILLIBRIDGE (27)
19TH	VERN BENSON (86)
	JOE DAWLEY (39)
	JOEY DEVINE (27)
20TH	RICH MORALES (67)
	RORIC HARRISON (64)
	DAVE GALLAGHER (50)
22ND	KEN ASPROMONTE (79)
	LOU JOHNSON (76)
23RD	WOODY WOODWARD (68)
	JIM MORRISON (58)
	BRIAN ASSELSTINE (57)
24TH	MIKE KRSNICH (79)
	ROD GILBREATH (58)
	JIM ACKER (52)
	BERNARD GILKEY (44)
	JESSE GARCIA (37)
25TH	JIM WESSINGER (55)
	GLENN HUBBARD (53)
	RAY HOLBERT (40)
26TH	DOUG SISK (53)
	DAVE MARTINEZ (46)
	MATT MURRAY (40)
28TH	CHARLEY KERFELD (47)
29TH	HOWIE BEDELL (75)

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER

A WORK OF ART

HOPEFULLY, Bobby Cox still has a lot of games to manage - enough to get this incredibly compelling team to the World Series and to win it!

That means No. 6 could be on the job as late as Nov. 4. He'd be thrilled to have to wait that long to begin his managerial retirement, and so would all of us. We've been bringing you a year-long series of stories about Cox and his remarkable career, and Patty Rasmussen's well-reported stories about the greatest manager in franchise history will continue in coming months.

This month, as you've probably noticed, we're giving Cox, as well as all of our subscribers, a special gift, thanks to the artistry of Steve Penley. The enclosed 8-page collectible poster is a reproduction of Penley's beautiful portrait that he created especially for Cox and ChopTalk.

Our thanks to Penley, as well as to those members of the Braves family and the ChopTalk readership family whose names appear on the back of the poster for bringing this awesome piece of art to life.

Many of you ordered additional copies of this issue and also unfolded copies of the poster, and those will reach you soon, if they haven't yet gotten to your mailbox. Additionally, we will be presenting Cox with the original portrait sometime this month at Turner Field.

See the ad on page 5 if you're interested in ordering additional copies of the poster (rolled and mailed in a tube) or copies of this issue with the poster inserted.

Losing Chipper Jones and Kris Medlen for the remainder of the season is an ugly double blow to a team that has such promise to win the division and possibly much more. But it's a tribute to Cox, his staff and the coaches, as well as to the work of Frank Wren, his staff and the entire organization that the club still seems capable of fulfilling its goal.

The two primary reasons for this are the fact that Wren subscribes to the belief that a team can never have too much pitching and his ability to construct a remarkable bench that has pulled the Braves through tough times all season long.

With Martin Prado due back shortly after this writing, the hitting should get even better down the stretch. And the pitching appears to be getting stronger every week, especially with Tim Hudson flashing Cy Young Award form.

Even without Chipper, there's still plenty of star power on this team. Yet it's the "every man" presence of players such as Brooks Conrad, Omar Infante and Jonny Venters that makes this team so special and such a threat to play well into October - or even into November.

We hope you'll enjoy Melanie D.G. Kaplan's profile of Conrad in this month's cover story, because his epitomizes what makes baseball so special and what makes this year's Braves a team to savor.

Speaking of Prado, who hurt his finger sliding head-first into home, you might be interested to know that according to Wren, the Braves have begun putting increased emphasis on teaching players in the farm system to slide feet-first, not head-first.

You might recall that after a sensational first two months of the season, rookie Jason Heyward also sustained a hand injury sliding head-first. He eventually had to spend time on the disabled list and hasn't hit the same way since the injury.

"Probably the most damage Pete Rose did to baseball was the head-first slide," Wren said of the all-time hits leader that popularized sliding head-first.

"Just about every kid we bring into our system now slides head-first. It's all they know. We try to re-train them, but it's not easy. It's instinctual for them, and they feel more comfortable doing it. But we're putting even more emphasis on training them to go feet-first."

For a look back at Braves history and ChopTalk history, visit my Facebook page to see all ChopTalk covers dating to the first one in January 1994. This issue is the 198th, so come and plan to spend some time enjoying the show!

THIS ISSUE OF CHOPTALK was mailed Aug. 20. The October issue will be mailed Sept. 22.

BEYOND BASEBALL

BY **PATTY RASMUSSEN**

After four months apart, Takashi Saito and his family (L-R, wife Yukiko and daughters Karumi, holding Airi, and Momoka) were reunited and enjoyed Family Day together.

QT!

BRAVES FAMILY DAY was held Sunday, Aug. 8, prior to the afternoon game. Dads and their sons and daughters played catch and occasionally hit the Wiffle ball, while moms took pictures and made sure everyone was properly hydrated in the 95-degree heat. After the fun on the field, the wives and children went to the Field Level Pavilion for a traditional picnic lunch.

PATTY RASMUSSEN

AFTER THE TEAM decorated his locker for his 50th birthday July 16, including replacing his regular chair with a wheelchair, hitting coach **Terry Pendleton** thought the surprises were over. Nope. Pendleton was brought out on the field to hear his son, **Terry Jr.**, sing the national anthem and then lead the fans in the stands in a chorus of Happy Birthday! The kicker was a video greeting on the Turner Field big screen from Pendleton's daughter, **Stephanie**, who was in Italy for a University of Georgia study abroad course. "I was wiping away the tears, I admit it," said Pendleton.

Takashi Saito was reunited with his family after four months. His wife, **Yukiko**, traveled from Japan with daughters **Karumi**, **Momoka** and infant **Airi**, who cried when she saw her dad, even though he shaved his beard...

All four of **Chipper Jones**' sons, **Matthew**, **Trey**, **Shea** and **Tristan**, were at Turner Field with Chipper's wife, **Sharon**, to watch the Braves play the Mets on Aug. 2. They sat in the SunTrust seats and had a great view of their dad hitting a big home run in the seventh inning. "It was Matthew's first game of the year," said Chipper, "so it was cool that he got to see a homer."...

John Smoltz qualified for the Ziplocal Georgia Open, Aug. 6-8, at The Club at Savannah Harbor. Smoltz competed on Aug. 6, and then drove to Atlanta in order to try to be at Turner Field for **Tom Glavine**'s number retirement ceremony. He watched the ceremony from the dugout, then learning he'd made the cut, got back in his car and drove to Savannah again. He finished the tournament tied for 29th...

SPECIAL

Peter Moylan and his girlfriend, **Mandy Coupel**, entertained visitors from Down Under. His daughters, **Montana** and **Matisse**, who traveled with their mom, **Tracey**, were in Atlanta for two weeks in early August. The first leg of the girls' American adventure included a visit to the Bay Area of California to watch a friend play in a baseball tournament. Once they arrived in Atlanta, the girls, attended games at Turner Field, visited the Georgia Aquarium, and went to a **Justin Bieber** concert at The Arena at Gwinnett Center on Aug. 9...

Braves broadcaster **Brian Jordan** and his 9-year-old daughter, **Kenley** (together, L), won their age bracket (8-10 year olds) at the July 31 Daddy/Daughter 2 On 2 Challenge at HoopAtlanta, the largest Youth/Adult basketball tournament in Georgia. Kenley comes by her skills honestly. Her mother, **Pam**, was a star basketball player for the University of Richmond and was the Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year in 1989 and 1990. Jordan also hosted Camp Jordan 2010 on Aug. 7, featuring a baseball clinic in the morning and a health fair/carnival in the afternoon. The event was sponsored by the Brian Jordan Foundation and was held at the Villages at Carver YMCA...

Larry and **Lynne Jones** managed to tear themselves away from the horses, cattle and deer at the Double Dime

Ranch in southwest Texas and traveled across the state to Houston to watch their son, **Chipper**, play against the Astros Aug. 9-11...

Dale Murphy threw out the first pitch prior to the Aug. 2 game at Turner Field. He was part of a group of Brigham Young University Alumni presenting "Mormon Night At Turner Field." Murphy flew back to Utah later that night and returned just four days later with his wife, **Nancy**, for the **Tom Glavine** number retirement ceremony...

The Hudson Family Foundation hosted an evening at Turner Field for their nine scholarship winners on Aug 7. **Kris Medlen** and **David Ross** met with the nine students from nine different schools in Fayette and Coweta Counties who earned $3,000 scholarships from the foundation. At least one of the winners will attend Auburn University in Alabama, where the Hudsons went to school...

Tennis star **Andy Roddick** threw out the first pitch prior to the July 21 game versus the San Diego Padres. Roddick and his wife, Sports Illustrated swimsuit model **Brooklyn Decker**, were in Atlanta while Roddick competed in the Atlanta Tennis Challenge. They spent time prior to the game in the SunTrust Club where **Deanna Delacher**, sister of **Derek Lowe**, and her sister-in-law, **Kerri Delacher**, had their picture taken with the model...

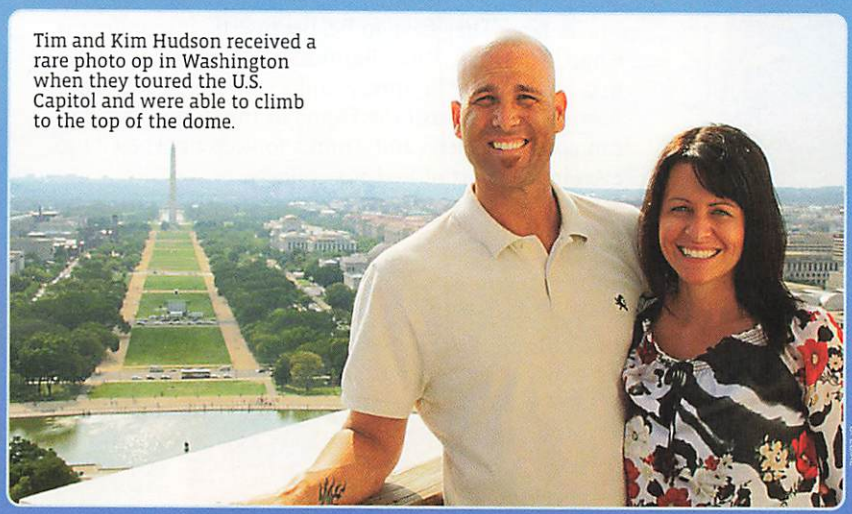
PATTY RASMUSSEN

Ben Palmer, 9, enjoys his stint as "Brave for a Day" with his host, Tim Hudson, and Eric Hinske (L).

Celebrating her ninth birthday flying on the Braves charter from D.C. to Cincinnati July 29, **Kennedie Hudson**, oldest daughter of **Tim** and **Kim Hudson**, handed out cookies to everyone on the plane and was rewarded when the team serenaded her with "Happy Birthday"...

Ben Palmer, a 9-year-old Braves fan and Make A Wish recipient from Asheville, N.C., had the time of his young life, Aug. 3, when he was given the opportunity to be a "Brave for a Day." Ben, who is battling liver cancer though is currently stable, arrived at the Braves clubhouse in time for batting practice. His host for the afternoon was **Tim Hudson**, who brought Ben into the clubhouse and introduced him to his teammates. Ben received a personalized jersey, and then he and Hudson took the field to watch batting practice behind the cage and then had a private bullpen session. Ben was interviewed by members of the media and stayed to watch the Braves beat the Mets...

Pitching coach **Roger McDowell** scored lots of "Daddy points" with his daughters, **Rachel** and **Amanda**, when he took them to meet actor **Zac Efron** at a baseball clinic. Efron was in Atlanta promoting his new movie, "Charlie St. Cloud," and made an appearance at the camp. "The girls thought we were all going bowling that afternoon," said Roger's wife, **Gloria**. "On the way, Roger stopped at some baseball fields and told them he had to do a quick baseball camp!" McDowell said the look on his daughter's faces made it all worthwhile. As for Efron's baseball skills, McDowell suggested he keep his day job.



Tim and Kim Hudson received a rare photo op in Washington when they toured the U.S. Capitol and were able to climb to the top of the dome.

CAPITOL-ISTS

A NUMBER of families took the trip to Washington, July 26-29. With an off day in D.C., **Matt Diaz**, wife, **Leslee**, son, **Nathan**, and daughter, **Anna**, took off for the National Zoo. **Brian Snitker** and his wife, **Ronnie**, visited Arlington National Cemetery where Ronnie saw the solemn guard changing ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. **Tim** and **Kim Hudson** took a behind-the-scenes tour of the U.S. Capitol with their friends, **Ryan** and **Angel Casterline**. The group was able to climb to the top of the Capitol dome, a treat reserved for just 1,000 lucky visitors a year. They also explored the basement of the Capitol and saw the old marble bathtubs, the only two remaining from the elaborate Senate baths. Meanwhile, **Brooks Conrad**, video coordinator **Rob Smith** and public relations director **Brad Hainje** took a tour of the White House. It was Conrad's first visit to the executive mansion. While they were there, the president's helicopter, Marine One, landed on the lawn, and they watched **President Obama** walk from the West Wing to the helicopter.

TALKIN' CHOP

LETTERS & PHOTOS FROM OUR READERS

WHETHER YOU'RE HAVING FUN AT TURNER FIELD, EXPERIENCING A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH YOUR FAVORITE BRAVES PLAYER, OR JUST SHOWING OFF YOUR COLLECTION OF BRAVES STUFF OR TRYING ON YOUR NEW BRAVES SHIRT, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT AND SEE A PICTURE.

THE GRADUATE

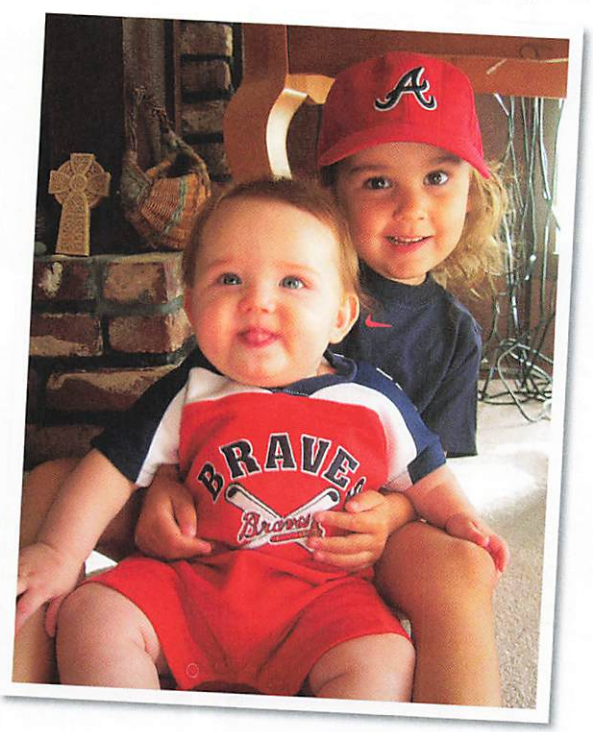
Our daughter, Kristin Reim, proudly displayed her loyalty to the Braves during her recent graduation from Indiana University Bloomington. Of the thousands of graduates, her cap was the only tribute to the Braves and the most unique! She designed her cap as a surprise to her father, Mike Cannon, a lifelong Braves fan. Residing in California for many years and now living in Illinois, our family has traveled to see the Braves as often as possible. We're proud of Kristin and proud of the Braves!

BRENDA CANNON
Huntley, Ill.

ISLAND GIRLS

Though they just moved to Rhode Island, Elena (4) and Annika (7 months) Rasmussen remain diehard Braves fans. They have to be, because their grandma is ChopTalk writer Patty Rasmussen! Elena went to her first Braves game in April. Annika will have to wait until next summer to visit the Home of the Braves. But you can count on Elena and Annika to keep up The Chop, even in the heart of Red Sox country.

JENNY RASMUSSEN
Newport, R.I.



THE CAT'S MEOW

My family got to meet Matt Diaz at the CNN Center on July 17. He signed my jersey, my program, my sister's baseball, and her purse. He also signed my brother's program and baseball. He was very nice and actually took the time to talk to us. I told him that we named our cat, Matty, after him. He said he was "honored."

KAITIE MAST
Rockbridge Baths, Va.

CHOPTALK AND THE ATLANTA BRAVES SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

AT THE BEACH

We capped off our family trip to Myrtle Beach with a Pelicans game where we saw some Braves of the future. Our sons, Luc and Will, had their picture taken with Rally Shark, one of the Pelicans mascots. The game was a lot of fun, especially since the Pelicans beat the Kinston Indians, 2-1. After the game, the boys got to run the bases – and hit the souvenir shop for Pelicans hats, jerseys and bats. It was a great way to end a great vacation.

TORI & SHANE STADLER
Burlington, N.C.

EAGER ROOKIE

I got my first taste of the big leagues last year. I took my sister (Nora), our dad (Dean) and our mom to a spring training game against the Detroit Tigers at Turner Field. I was only 6 months old, but what a great day it was! I'm bulking up on a cereal-heavy diet so I can make it to more games in the future!

PETER CALVIN ANASON
Atlanta, Ga.

SHARE YOUR BRAVES FEVER!

WRITE TO US

Talkin' Chop c/o ChopTalk
P.O. Box 81247
Conyers, Ga. 30013-9247

Letters@ChopTalkonline.com

Letters and photos chosen for publication are subject to editing, and photos cannot be returned. Computer printouts of photos cannot be published. High-resolution files preferred. ChopTalk reserves the right to use letters and photos for promotional and advertising purposes.

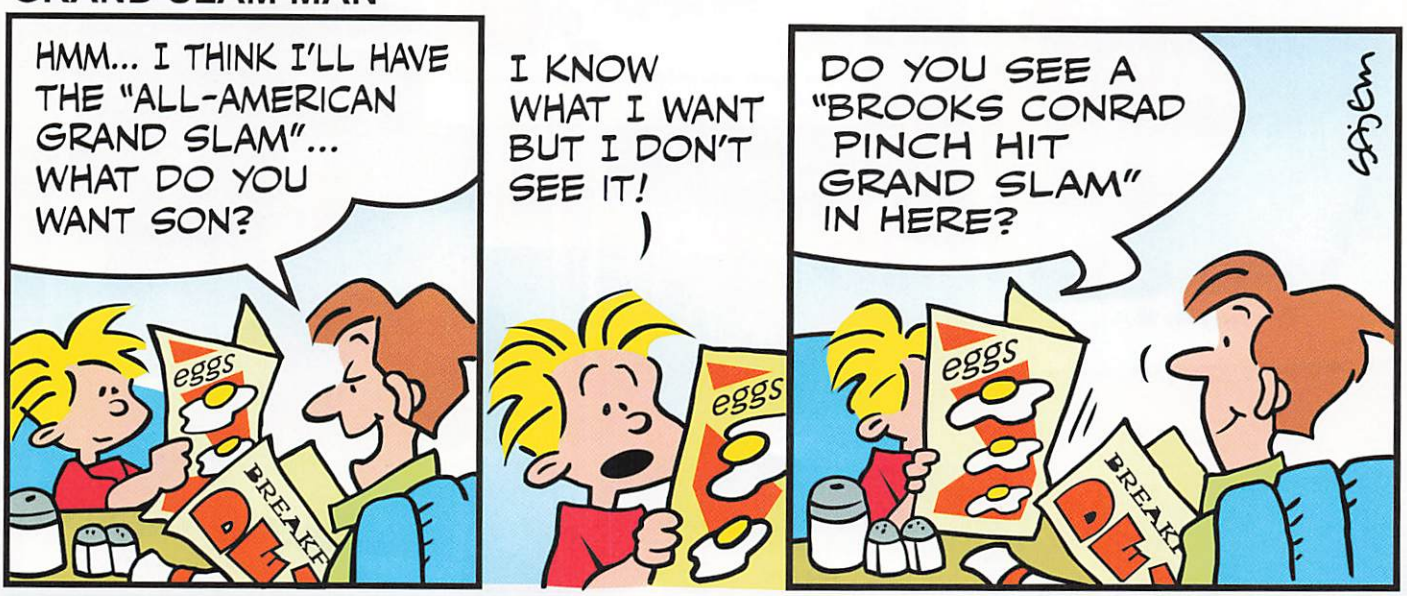
WRITE THE BRAVES

Atlanta Braves
P.O. Box 4064
Atlanta, Ga. 30302

For the Braves players, Bobby Cox, the coaches, broadcasters, or members of the front office.

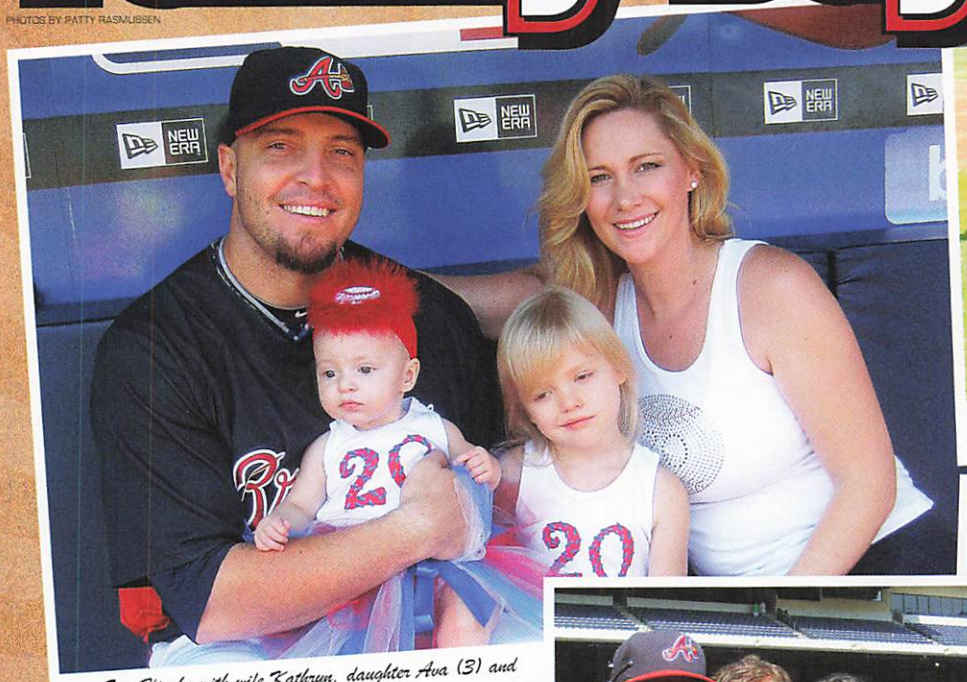
If you request a response, be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Never send anything of value that you want returned. This is no guarantee of a reply.

GRAND SLAM MAN

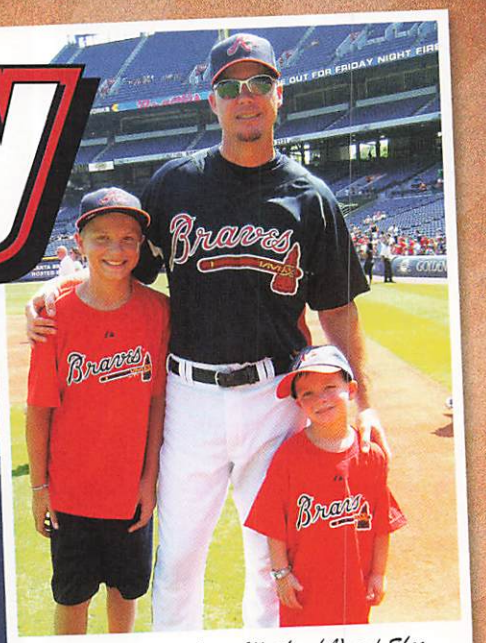

HMM... I THINK I'LL HAVE THE "ALL-AMERICAN GRAND SLAM"... WHAT DO YOU WANT SON?
I KNOW WHAT I WANT BUT I DON'T SEE IT!
DO YOU SEE A "BROOKS CONRAD PINCH HIT GRAND SLAM" IN HERE?
eggs
BREAK

2010 Family Day

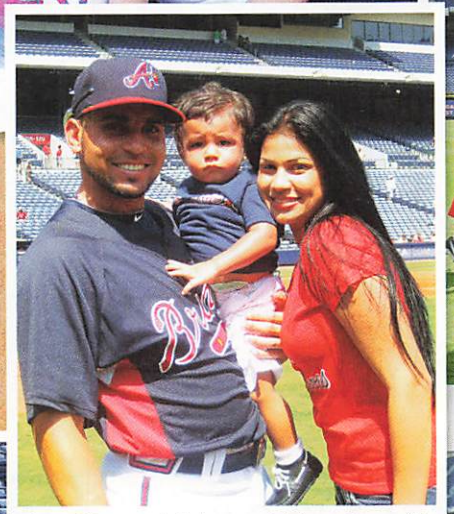
PHOTOS BY PATTY RASMUSSEN



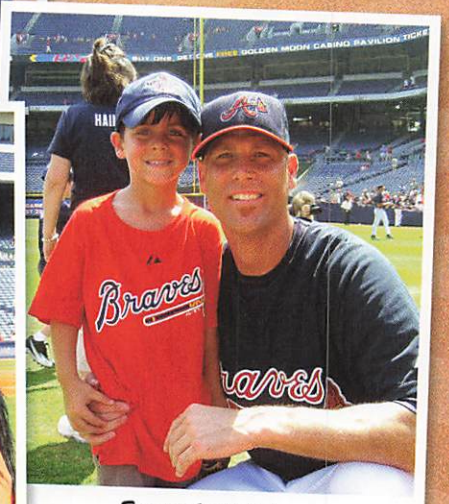
Eric Hinske with wife Kathryn, daughter Ava (3) and infant daughter Alivia



Chipper Jones with sons Matthew (L) and Shea

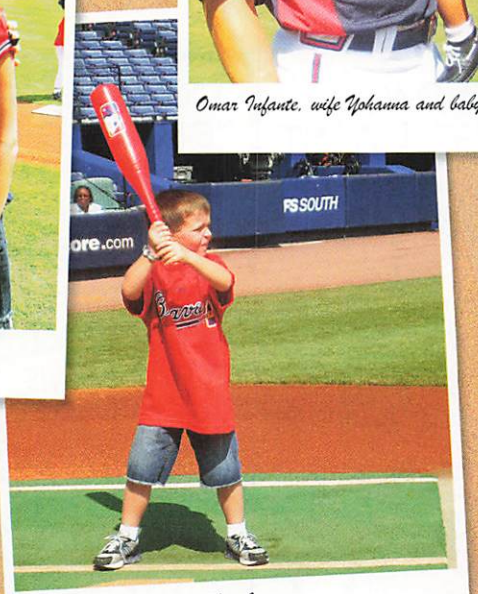


Omar Infante, wife Yohanna and baby son Yomar (1)

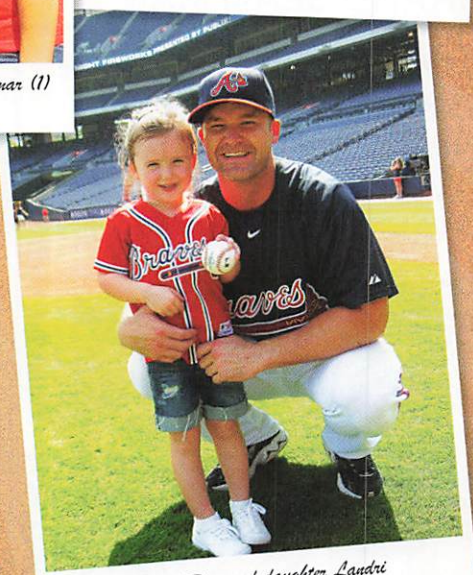


Tim and Kade Hudson

Brian and Ashley McCann

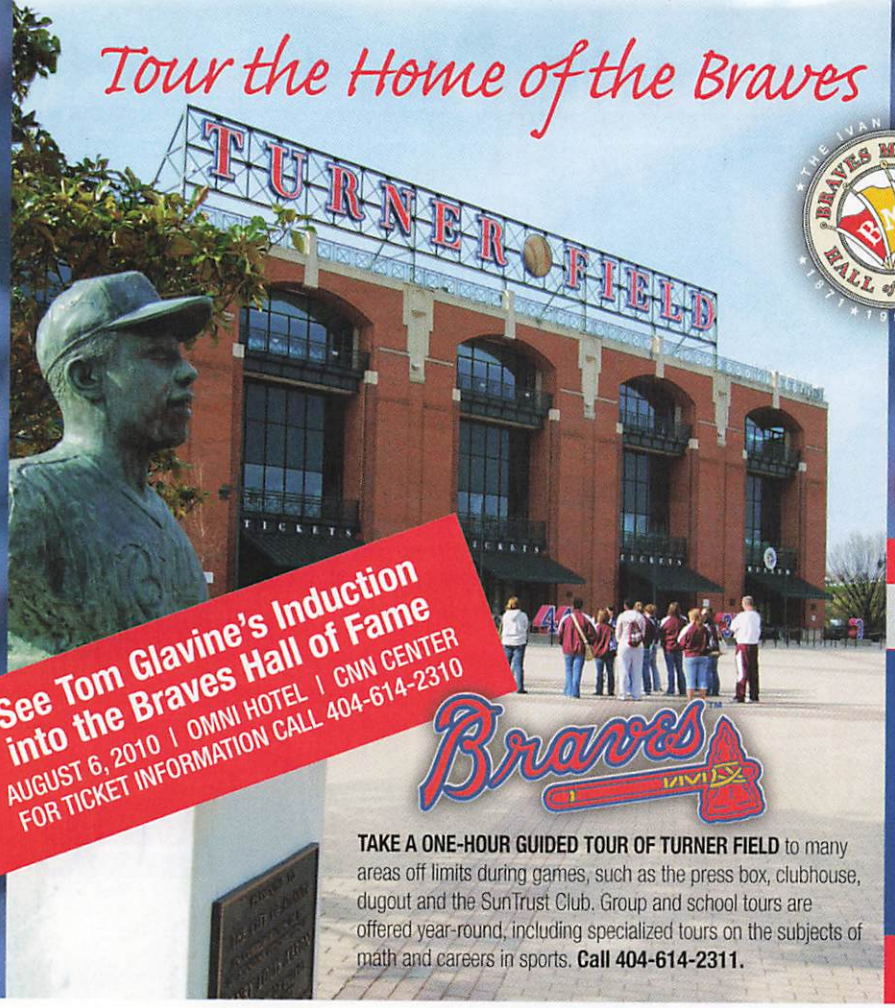


Shea Jones



David Ross and daughter Landri

Tour the Home of the Braves



THE IVAN ALLEN JR. BRAVES MUSEUM HALL of FAME 1871 1953 1966

VISIT THE BRAVES MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME AT TURNER FIELD and view more than 600 Braves artifacts and photographs on display. See items from the team's years in Boston (1871-1952), Milwaukee (1953-65), and Atlanta (1966-present), including Hank Aaron's 715th home run bat and ball, the 1995 World Series trophy and much more.

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AUGUST 6, 2010 | OMNI HOTEL | CNN CENTER
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Braves

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BOBBY COX $6 DAYS

In honor of Bobby Cox's last season as Braves manager, tours of Turner Field will be $6 on the following days in 2010.

2010		
	April 10	Bobby earned his first managerial win in 1978
	May 21	Bobby's birthday
	June 16	Bobby became the winningest manager in Braves history with 1,005 wins in 1998
	July 11	Bobby managed the 2000 All-Star Game at Turner Field
	August 28	Bobby earned his 1,500th career win in 1999
	September 29	Bobby earned his 2,000th career win in 2004

For tour or museum information call 404-614-2311 or order tickets at braves.com/tours

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MARKDOWN MONDAYS

Save 10% on your entire purchase at the Braves Clubhouse Store at CNN Center on any Monday from March 15, 2010 through October 25, 2010.

$500 SHOPPING SPREE*

ONLY AT THE BRAVES CLUBHOUSE STORE/CNN CENTER

Starting in May 2010, visit the Braves Clubhouse Store at CNN Center and register for a chance to win a $500 Shopping Spree of regularly-priced merchandise. One (1) winner will be selected each month during May, June, July, and August 2010.

* No purchase necessary. Open to legal U.S. residents 18 or older at the time of entry. Void where prohibited. Subject to official rules. Please visit the Braves Clubhouse Store at CNN Center for complete contest rules.

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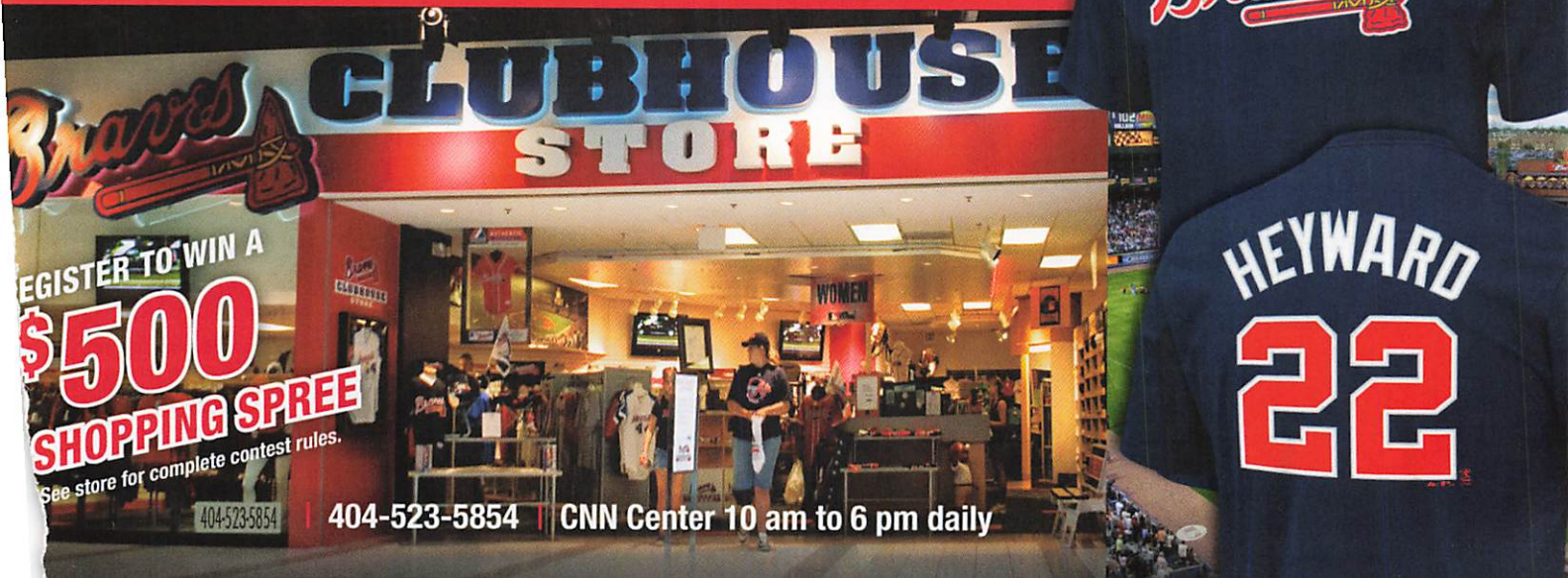
100% cotton. Adult sizes: M, L, XL, XXL. #2237 **$25**
Youth Sizes: S, M, L, XL. #2222 **$20**



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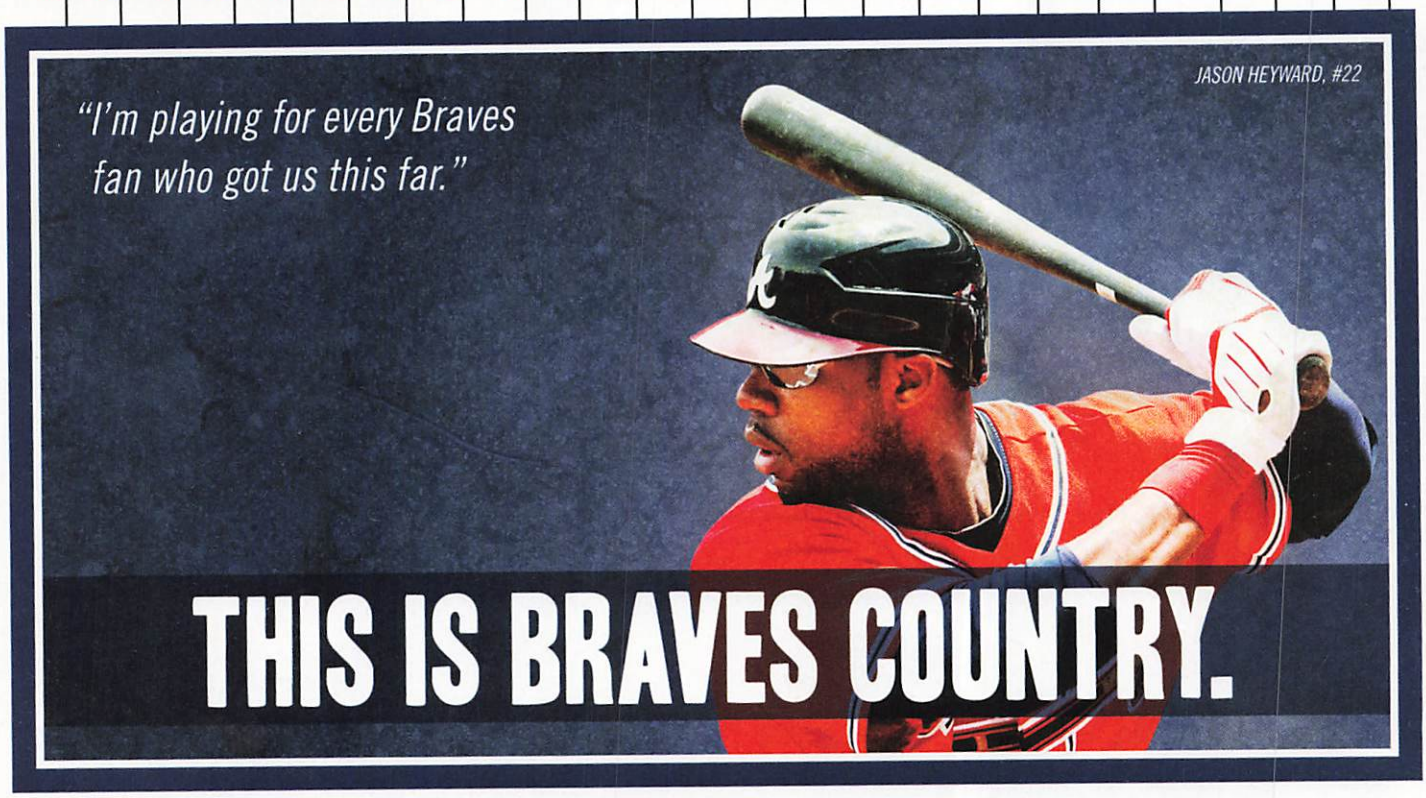

THE 2010 BRAVES SCHEDULE FEATURES SOME OF THE BIGGEST GAMES IN BASEBALL

Learn more about the affordable, flexible and fun ways to enjoy them for your next group event.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 PTV NYM 7:00	2 PTV NYM 7:00	3 SS FLA 7:00	4 SS FLA 7:00
5 FSS FLA 1:00	6 SS PIT 1:30	7 SS PIT 7:00	8 SS PIT 7:00	9 PTV STL 7:00	10 PTV STL 7:30	11 FOX STL 4:00
12 FSS STL 1:30	13 SS WAS 7:00	14 SS WAS 7:00	15 SS WAS 12:00	16	17 SS NYM 7:00	18 FOX NYM 4:00
19 FSS NYM 1:00	20 SS PHI 7:00	21 SS PHI 7:00	22 SS PHI 7:00	23	24 SS WAS 7:00	25 SS WAS 1:00
26 FSS WAS 1:30	27 SS FLA 7:00	28 SS FLA 7:00	29 SS FLA 4:30	30	1 SS PHI 7:30	2 SS PHI 7:00
3 FSS PHI 1:30						

HOME GAMES | AWAY GAMES

Schedule as of February 2010.
All times Eastern and subject to change.

SINGLE GAME SUITE TICKETS

Enjoying Braves baseball in a private suite at Turner Field is an experience like no other in Atlanta sports. The Braves are offering $100 suite tickets on weekend games throughout the 2010 season. The ticket includes a $30 food and beverage credit and access to our newly renovated 755 Club – Delta SKY360° Lounge.

ALL GAMES ARE BROADCAST ON: 680 The Fan | ROCK 100.5

WATCH THE GAMES ON: SPORTSOUTH | FS SOUTH | PeachtreeTV | FOX | ESPN

braves.com/groups 404.577.9100

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Braves